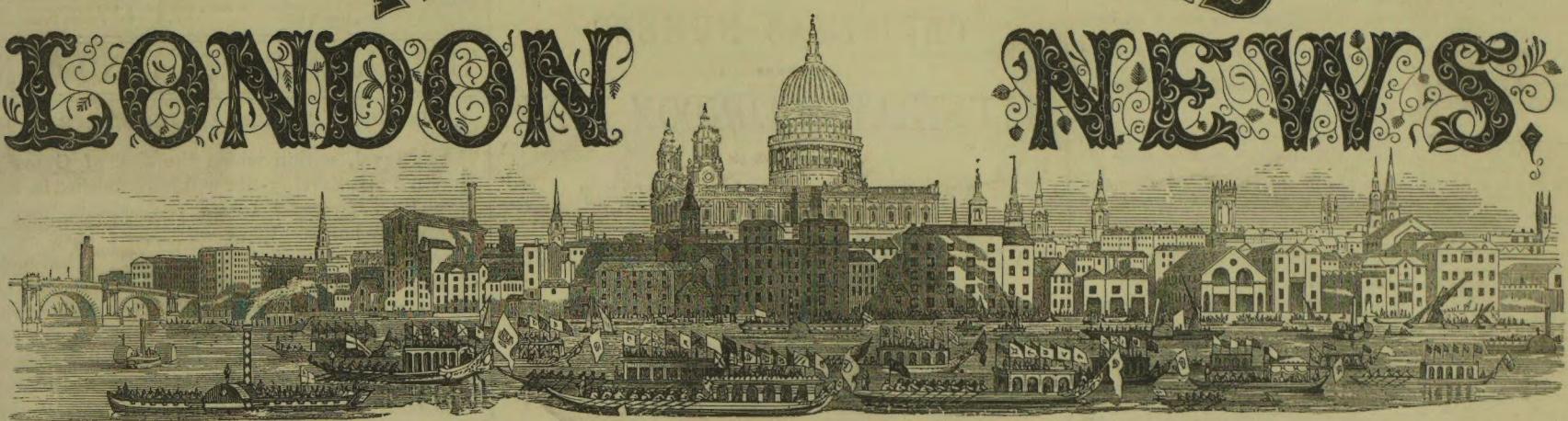


THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.



REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST-OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

No. 1955.—VOL. LXIX.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1876.

WITH } SIXPENCE.
TWO SUPPLEMENTS } BY POST, 6½D.



"A GIRL OF PONT AVEN." BY P. MACQUOID.
IN THE DUDLEY GALLERY EXHIBITION.

BIRTHS.

On Christmas Day, at Little Park House, Crookham, Newbury, the wife of James Shuter, Esq., of a son and heir.
On the 18th ult., at Dinaigore, Lower Bengal, the wife of E. Vesey Westmacott, Esq., C.S., of a son.
On the 21st inst., the wife of Sir J. Kennaway, Bart., M.P., Escot, of a daughter.
On the 22nd inst., the wife of the Rev. A. Rogers, Yarlington Rectory, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 12th inst., at the parish church, Liskeard, Edward F. C. Clarke, Solicitor, Tiverton, to Mary Louisa (May), second daughter of S. W. Jenkin, C.E., Liskeard.
On the 20th inst., at St. Peter's Church, Brighton, James Pankhurst, Esq., of Lausanne, Switzerland, to Augusta Julia, eldest daughter of the late Edward Boyce Templeton, Esq.

On the 22nd ult., at Hillside-crescent, Edinburgh, the Rev. W. Scott, M.A., minister of the parish of Cromarty, to Annie, daughter of A. Allan, Esq.

DEATHS.

On the 27th ult., at Decca, Bengal, India, after a few hours illness, J. Stephens, Esq., aged 53 years 1 month and 22 days.
On the 25th inst., at Brighton, Mary, daughter of Edward C. Ridgway St. Michael's-place, Brighton, aged 16 months.
On Oct. 4, at Inverquahary, Tasmania, David Ogilvy, fifth son of the late Rear-Admiral Sir William Ogilvy, Bart., R.N., of Baldovan House, Dundee.
On the 23rd inst., at No. 7, Charlotte-square, Edinburgh, the Hon. Lord Neve, one of the Judges of the Court of Session in Scotland.

* * * The charge for the insertion of Births, Marriages, or Deaths is Five Shillings for each announcement.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK ENDING JAN. 6, 1877.

SUNDAY, DEC. 31, 1876.
First Sunday after Christmas.
St. Paul's Cathedral, 10.30 a.m., the Rev. A. Povah, Rector of St. Anne's, Aldersgate-street; 3.15 p.m., the Rev. Canon Liddon; 7 p.m., the Rev. W. D. MacLagan.
Westminster Abbey, 10 a.m., the Rev. J. Troutbeck, Minor Canon; 3 p.m., the Rev. Canon Farrer (in residence).
St. James's, noon, the Rev. W. H. Bliss.
Whitehall, 11 a.m., the Rev. W. F. Erskine Kroll; 3 p.m., the Rev. Francis Garden, the Sub-dean of the Chapels Royal.
Savoy, 11.30 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Alfred Barry, Canon of Worcester and Hon. Chaplain to the Queen; 10.30 p.m., the Rev. Henry White, Chaplain in Ordinary to the Queen (midnight service).
Temple Church, 11 a.m., the Rev. Dr. Vaughan, the Master; 3 p.m., the Rev. A. Ainger, the Reader.
St. Margaret's Westminster, 11 a.m., the Rev. Canon Farrer; 3 p.m., the Rev. H. H. Montgomery; 7 p.m., the Rev. J. B. Russell.

MONDAY, JAN. 1, 1877.
Circumcision.
Union of Great Britain and Ireland, 1801.
Bank Holiday in Scotland.
London Institution, 5 p.m. (Professor W. F. Barrett on the Analogy of Sound and Light).
Institute of Actuaries, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 2.
Accession of William I. as King of Prussia, 1861.
Christian Knowledge Society, 2 p.m.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Gladstone on the Chemistry of Fire).
Pathological Society, 8.30 p.m. (election of officers).
Zoological Society, 8.30 p.m. (Professor Garrod on the Osteology and Visceral Anatomy of the Rumi-

nantia; Messrs. Slater and Salvin on some New Species of South American Birds; and Mr. R. B. Sharpe on New Species of Warblers).

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3.
Society of Arts, 7 p.m. (Mr. R. A. Proctor on the Sun and his Family).
Obstetrical Society, 8 p.m., anniversary.

Microscopical Society, 8 p.m.
British Archaeological Association, 8 p.m. (Mr. C. Lynam on Early Churchyard Crosses of Staffordshire; Mr. C. W. Dymond on Megalithic Antiquities at Stanton Drew).

Norwich Poultry, Pigeon, and Bird Show (two days).

Burnley Columbarian Society Show (two days).

THURSDAY, JAN. 4.
Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Gladstone on the Chemistry of Fire).

London Institution, 7 p.m. (Professor H. Morley on the History of the English Novel).

Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts, Suffolk-street Gallery, conversation, 8 p.m.

Royal Albert Hall, 8 p.m., Mr. W. Carter's Choir ("The Messiah").

Psychological Society, 8.30 p.m.

Border Counties Poultry and Dog Show (three days).

FRIDAY, JAN. 5.
Sacred Harmonic Society, 7.30 p.m. (Mendelssohn's "Elijah").

Geologists' Association, 8 p.m. (Mr. J. Starkie Gardner on the Lower Bagshot Beds of the Hampshire Basin).

SATURDAY, JAN. 6.
Epiphany.

Old Christmas Day, or Twelfth Day.

Moon's last quarter, 2.17 p.m.

Royal Institution, 3 p.m. (Professor Gladstone on the Chemistry of Fire).

THE WEATHER.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS AT THE KEW OBSERVATORY OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY.

Lat. 51° 28' 6" N.; Long. 0° 18' 47" W.; Height above Sea, 34 feet.

DAY	DAILY MEANS OF		THEMOM.		WIND.	Movement in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M. next morning, read at 10 A.M.,	Rain in 24 hours, read at 10 A.M., next morning, read at 10 A.M.,
	Barometer Corrected.	Temperature of the Air.	Dew Point.	Relative Humidity.	Amount of Cloud.		
20	28.752	43° 2	41° 3	94° 10	46° 6	S. SE.	286 0 465
21	28.840	40° 2	36° 9	89° 6	44° 6	SW.	270 0 000
22	29.191	34° 8	33° 1	95° 5	40° 8	SW. WSW.	65 0 005
23	29.323	34° 6	32° 0	92° 10	38° 4	SW. E. NE.	203 1 550
24	29.490	35° 0	34° 0	97° 10	35° 8	N. NW. WNW.	90 0 020
25	29.834	34° 7	32° 2	92° 10	36° 6	NE.	310 0 014
26	30.108	33° 8	30° 5	88° 10	35° 3	ENE. ESE.	315 0 300

* Rain and melted snow.

The following are the readings of the meteorological instruments for the above days, in order, at ten o'clock a.m.:-

Barometer (in inches) corrected .. 28.778 28.800 29.134 29.330 29.470 29.733 30.160

Temperature of Air .. 43° 7 41° 6 35° 1 35° 30 34° 75 35° 67 33° 10

Temperature of Evaporation .. 42° 5 39° 8 31° 5 34° 75 34° 25 34° 75 31° 80

Direction of Wind .. SSW. SW. SW. NE. WNW. NE. ENE.

Open SESAME: or Harlequin the Forty Robbers of the Magic Cave. New Grand Comic Pantomime. EVERY EVENING, at Seven. Morning Performances Every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 12.30, to which Children under Ten half price. Box-Office open Eleven till Five.

OLYMPIC THEATRE.—SI SLOCUM, in which THE FRAYNE FAMILY (the Kentucky Rifle Team) will appear. Preceded at Seven by BOOTS AT THE SWAN. Miss Gerard, Mr. W. J. Hill. Box-Office open daily from Eleven to Five.

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SIX ELEMENTARY LECTURES on MINERALOGY, adapted to a juvenile class, will be given by Professor TENNANT, F.G.S., at his residence, 149, Strand, W.C., on JAN. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, at Ten a.m. and Three p.m. Terms, 10s. ed. for the Course.

M. R. and Mrs. GERMAN REED'S CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENT. Twice on TUESDAY NEXT, at Three and Eight, MATCHED AND MATED, Mr. Corney Grin's TABLE D'HOTE, and OUR DOLL'S HOUSE; Fairy Vision in One Peep. EVERY EVENING, except Thursday and Saturday, at Eight; every Thursday and Saturday at Three.—ST. GEORGE'S HALL, Langham-place, Oxford-circus.

LYCEUM THEATRE.—Sixth Season under the present Management. EVERY EVENING, Saturdays excepted, at 7.45, MACBETH—Mr. Henry Irving; Messrs. Swinburne, Mead, Bentley, Lyons, Archer, Beaumont, Louisa, Huntley, &c.; and Misses Crewe, (Mrs. Crowe). Reproduced with all the original scenes. Scenery by Hayes Craven, Music by Mr. Stoeber, &c. Preceded at Seven by DIAMOND CUT DIAMOND—Messrs. Carter, Lyons, Bentley, Pinner, &c. SATURDAY, JAN. 6, Morning Performance of MACBETH at Two, Saturday Evening, LEAH. Box-Office open Ten till Five.

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY-LANE.—EVERY EVENING, at Seven, BOX AND COX.—THE FORTY THIEVES—The Celebrated Voyer Family; Misses H. Coveney, C. Jess; Mr. F. W. Irish, &c. Double Harlequinade—Clowns, C. Lauri and F. Evans. Morning Performances, at Two o'clock, every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Children and Schools at Half Price to all parts of the Theatre, Upper Gallery excepted.

THEATRE ROYAL, COVENT GARDEN.—EVERY EVENING, the Grand Pantomime, ROBINSON CRUSOE. With Scenery and Transformation by Mr. Telbin. The most powerful company ever collected. Children and Schools Half Price to Day Performances on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays, at Two. Box-Office open from Ten till Five, under the direction of Mr. E. Hall.

NATIONAL STANDARD THEATRE, Bishopsgate. OPEN SESAME: or Harlequin the Forty Robbers of the Magic Cave. New Grand Comic Pantomime. EVERY EVENING, at Seven. Morning Performances Every Monday, Thursday, and Saturday, at 12.30, to which Children under Ten half price. Box-Office open Eleven till Four. No charge for Booking.

ST. JAMES'S HALL. THE extraordinary SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY FESTIVAL ENTERTAINMENT produced by the

MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS on Boxing Day will be repeated throughout the present week.

EVERY DAY AT THREE O'CLOCK,

EVERY NIGHT AT EIGHT O'CLOCK.

On MONDAY (NEW-YEAR'S DAY)

both performances will take place in the GREAT HALL.

On Tuesday Afternoon the performances will be resumed in Messrs. Moore and Burgess's own elegant hall. Places can be booked at Austin's Office, St. James's Hall (without extra charge), for any day or evening throughout the holidays.

No Fees.

NEW-YEAR'S DAY.

THE MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS will give TWO SPECIAL PERFORMANCES of their great and successful Holiday Entertainment in the

ST. JAMES'S GRAND HALL.

FIVE THOUSAND SEATS.

Doors open for the Day Performance at 2.30; for the Evening Performance at Seven.

No Fees. No Charge for Booking Seats.

Fauteuils, 5s.; Sofa Stalls, 3s.; Balcony, 2s.; Area and Gallery, 1s.

FIVE THOUSAND SEATS.

ST. JAMES'S GREAT AND LESSER HALLS.

MOORE and BURGESS MINSTRELS. EVERY DAY throughout the week at THREE, and EVERY NIGHT at EIGHT.

THE TWELFTH CHRISTMAS and NEW-YEAR'S PROGRAMME, having proved a SIGNAL SUCCESS, will be repeated throughout the month.

Fauteuils, 5s.; Sofa Stalls, 3s.; Balcony, 2s.; Area and Gallery, 1s.

FIVE THOUSAND SEATS.</p

be demonstrative, it abides in strength. It has served unquestionably to elevate the reputation of the British Public all the world over, and has been as a light shining in a dark place. Eighteen Hundred and Seventy-Six will be looked back upon with reverence on its account, and our posterity will be likely to remember it with pride.

We still remain, as we have said, in suspense. There is a visible brightening along the horizon, leading us to expect that the dawn of the coming year may rapidly advance to an untroubled day. We would not lose sight of the possibility of being utterly disappointed in our hopes. The peace of Europe now rests upon the decision of Turkey, and Turkey is in a condition of political exhaustion, which must give a character of insane desperation to her single resistance of the will of United Europe. Of course she will not succumb to dictation so long as she is able to evade it. But it appears improbable that she will deliberately resolve to dash her head against a wall. She knows how, when driven by imperious necessity, to bow to fate. Her only hope has been in the differences which she supposed to exist in the policy of the Great Powers, and especially as between England and Russia. By this time she must be undeceived on that point; and hence, with trembling hope, we await her final decision.

What the coming year will turn out to be, whether in regard to individuals or to the public, it is not given to us to discern. It is shrouded by a veil which we can neither look through nor draw aside. Human sagacity may, perhaps, foretell some of its more prominent characteristics, but even as day by day we pass out of the known into the unknown, so do we in relation to successive years. We are bound, therefore, to take all the deeper interest in the future well-being of those whom we esteem. The connection between our readers and ourselves creates in our heart a sensible interest for their welfare. For the most part strangers to them in person, our sympathies nevertheless yearnly go out towards them as a new period of time approaches. With all sincerity and cordiality of feeling, and in all the senses in which it may be legitimately interpreted, we wish every one of them a HAPPY NEW YEAR.

THE COURT.

The Queen, Princess Louise of Lorne, Princess Beatrice, and the Marquis of Lorne attended Divine service on Sunday in the private chapel of Windsor Castle. The Hon. and Rev. Francis F. C. Byng, Vicar of St. Peter's, Onslow-gardens, officiated.

On Christmas Day her Majesty, with the Princesses and the Marquis of Lorne, was also present at Divine service, when the Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor officiated, and administered the sacrament of the holy communion.

On Tuesday the Queen was present at a concert in St. George's Hall. The following vocalists assisted:—Miss Sophie Ferrari, Miss Jessie Jones, Madame Trebelli, and Mr. W. H. Cummings. The band and chorus, consisting of upwards of 130 performers, were selected from the Philharmonic Society, the Italian Opera, the Sacred Harmonic Society, the Chapels Royal, Windsor, and her Majesty's private band. The Queen, accompanied by Prince and Princess Christian and Prince Christian Victor of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Louise of Lorne, and Princess Beatrice, and attended by the ladies and gentlemen in waiting, entered St. George's Hall at six o'clock, when the concert commenced. The programme was:—Selection from "Athalie"—Mendelssohn; Psalm, "By Babylon's Wave"—Gounod; Cantique, "Noël"—Adam; "Agnus Dei" (Requiem)—Verdi; Coro, "Dal tuo stellato soglio" ("Mosé")—Rossini; Organ, Sir George J. Elvey; conductor, Mr. W. G. Cusins. The following received invitations:—The Hon. and Very Rev. the Dean of Windsor and the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley, the Hon. Mrs. Ponsonby and Miss Ponsonby, Lady Cowell, and Colonel the Hon. Augustus and Miss Liddell. The servants of the Royal Household were permitted to be present at the performance.

Princess Louise of Lorne and the Marquis of Lorne left the castle on Wednesday.

Prince and Princess Christian have paid frequent visits to her Majesty, and have lunched and dined with her. Prince Christian Victor and Prince Albert and Princesses Victoria and Louise of Schleswig-Holstein have also visited the Queen, and the Princes have lunched with her. Her Majesty has also received at dinner Earl and Countess Sydney, Lady Churchill, the Hon. Victor Spencer, the Dean of Windsor, the Rev. St. John and Lady Florence Blunt, and the Rev. Canon Pearson.

The Queen, with the Princesses, has walked and driven out daily.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES.

The Prince and Princess of Wales returned to Sandringham at the end of last week from visiting the Earl and Countess of Leicester at Holkham Hall. Their Royal Highnesses, with their elder children, attended Divine service on Sunday and on Christmas Day at the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Sandringham Park. The Rev. W. Lake Onslow and the Rev. J. N. Dalton officiated. The interior of the church was tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens from the Royal gardens. The Prince and Princess, according to their usual custom, contributed substantially to the Christmas dinner of every cottager on the Royal estate. The distribution took place, on Saturday, at the Royal stables, in the presence of the Prince. The beef given away amounted in the aggregate to between seventy and seventy-five stone, 200 families, representing about 650 men, women, and children, being the recipients. Their Royal Highnesses have been entertaining Prince Edward of Saxe-Weimar and a large party of guests this week at Sandringham for shooting.

The Grand Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who has been staying several weeks with her mother, the Duchess of Cambridge, left St. James's Palace, on Thursday week, on her return to Strelitz.

His Excellency Count Beust left the Austrian Embassy, Belgrave-square, last week, for Germany, to spend the Christmas with his family. Count Walkenstein acts as Charge-d'Affaires during his Excellency's absence.

The Duke and Duchess of Athole have arrived in town from Norfolk.

The Marquis and Marchioness of Bath, with Viscount Weymouth, have arrived at Longleat, Wilts.

His Excellency the Danish Minister and Madame de Bülow have returned to town from visiting Sir Ivor and Lady Cornelia Guest at Canford House.

The Marquis of Hamilton, M.P., arrived in town, on Saturday last, from Baronscourt, Ireland.

The Earl and Countess of Carysfort have arrived in town from their seat in the county of Wicklow.

The Earl and Countess of Darnley and the Ladies Bligh arrived at Cobham Hall, near Gravesend, at the end of last week, from Clifton Lodge, Athboy, his Lordship's seat in the county of Meath.

The Earl and Countess of Wharncliffe have passed the Christmas at The Wilderness, near Sevenoaks, with Sir Charles and Lady Louisa Mills.

The Earl and Countess of Coventry have arrived at Croome Court.

Laura, Countess of Antrim, has left town on a visit to the Marquis and Marchioness of Londonderry at Wynyard Park.

Viscount Clifden and Colonel Stirling, accompanied by Viscount Clifden and the Hon. Lilah Agar-Ellis, arrived, on Saturday last, at Haldenby House, Northamptonshire, from Gwran Castle, in the county of Kilkenny.

Viscount Bangor has arrived in town from Brighton.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer left town on Saturday last for Pynes, Exeter.

FASHIONABLE MARRIAGES.

The marriage of Viscount Helmsley, eldest son of the Earl of Feversham, and Lady Muriel Frances Louisa Talbot, third and youngest daughter of the Earl of Shrewsbury and Talbot, was solemnised, on Saturday last, at St. James's Church, Piccadilly. The Hon. James H. Duncombe, brother of the bridegroom, acted as best man. The bridesmaids were Lady Gwen-dolen Talbot, sister of the bride; Lady Hermione and Lady Helen Duncombe, sister of the bridegroom; Miss Chetwynd, Miss Rachael Duncombe, and Miss Denison. The bride wore a dress of white poult de soie à la Princesse, trimmed with Brussels lace and small bouquets of natural orange-blossoms; a wreath of the same natural flowers fastened to her hair by five diamond stars, a gift of the bridegroom; and a veil of Brussels lace. The other jewels worn by her were a diamond necklace, the gift of the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury; a diamond bracelet, the gift of the Earl and Countess of Feversham; a blue enamelled and pearl bracelet, a gift from Lord Feversham's tenantry; and a gold bracelet set with diamonds, the gift of the Hon. James Duncombe. The bridesmaids' dresses were popline d'ivoire polonaises over poult-de-soie petticoats of the same colour, trimmed with ruby velvet; Rubens hats of popline d'ivoire, lined with ruby velvet, and feathers to match. Each wore a pendant locket, the bow at the top forming a coronet set with pearls, and the initials of the bride and bridegroom in old English characters, that of Lord Helmsley in rubies and that of his bride in pearls. They were the gift of the bridegroom. The religious ceremony was performed by the Hon. and Very Rev. Augustus Duncombe, D.D., Dean of York (great uncle of the bridegroom), and the Hon. and Rev. William Chetwynd Talbot, Rector of Bishop's Hatfield, Herts (great uncle of the bride). After the breakfast, at the Earl and Countess of Shrewsbury's residence in Dover-street, the bride and bridegroom left shortly before twelve o'clock for Ainderby, near Bedale, Yorkshire, to pass the early part of their honeymoon, before going to Ingestre Hall.

The marriage of the Hon. Thomas Wentworth Fitzwilliam with Miss Kinglake was solemnised, on Thursday week, at St. George's Church. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. F. Kinglake, in the presence of a large number of the relations and friends of both families.

The marriage of the Marchioness of Camden and Captain Phillips Greene, of the 5th Lancers, took place on Thursday, at St. Peter's, Eaton-square. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. E. Carr Glyn, Vicar of Worcester, assisted by the Rev. H. Harbord, her Ladyship's Chaplain at Bayham. The bride was given away by her Ladyship's brother, the Duke of Marlborough; the bridegroom's best man was the Hon. E. Willoughby. At the conclusion of the ceremony, a breakfast was given at the town residence of the Marchioness of Camden. In the course of the afternoon her Ladyship and Captain Greene left town for the seat of the Duchess of Montrose, at Riddlesworth, near Thetford, Norfolk, where they will spend the honeymoon.

A marriage is arranged, and will shortly take place at Nice, between Lady Laura Dundas, sister of the Earl of Zetland, and Lord De Freyne, of French Park, in the county of Roscommon.

"A GIRL OF PONT AVEN."

The picture which we have engraved on our front page is in the Winter Exhibition of Cabinet Pictures in Oil at the Dudley Gallery, Piccadilly. It is the work of a young artist who is making rapid progress in his profession, and who has here given us a fresh example of his versatility. This sweet girl of Pont Aven, France, would make a good model for a Madonna; but she is, perhaps, more captivating in her present quaint and picturesque head-dress. The picture is soundly and honestly painted, and is Mr. Macquoid's first essay in a new line, his name having been hitherto chiefly associated with pictures of animal life.

A STORE IN REYKJAVIK, ICELAND.

To the illustrations which have previously been given of the natural scenery and of the manners and customs of Iceland, from sketches by Mr. Prior, our Special Correspondent, we now add another from his pencil—the interior of a store at Reykjavik, the capital of Iceland. The storekeepers there are called merchants; and their establishments, which lack signs and names, are conspicuous buildings fronting the sea. The list of "wet goods" in a general store is extensive, including port and sherry, claret and champagne, rum and cognac, with liqueurs like cherry-brandy. From a work entitled "Ultima Thule; or, a Summer in Iceland," by Richard F. Burton (published by Nimmo), abounding with valuable information, we extract this description of a store visited by the author, which, as will be seen, bears considerable likeness to the one sketched by our Artist:—"We will now enter the establishment and see the stock-in-trade of a general 'merchant.' The usual dwarf entrance-hall, after the outer door is passed, opens upon two rooms to the right and left: one is the public shop; the other is the private store, mostly provided with railed pen for the benefit of the clerk and account-keeper. Besides the main-stays of commerce before mentioned, the rooms will contain the following articles:—Dry goods, broad cloths and long cloths, woollen comforters, threads, and a few silks and satins. Hardwares of every description; iron for the blacksmith's use; hoop-iron and bar-iron (no pig), the metal being preferably Swedish, for the best of reasons; a little steel and brass wire, but neither copper nor zinc; farriers' and carpenters' tools; cooking utensils; spades and scythes; sewing-machines; and fish-hooks, the smaller sort for long lines, the cod-hooks

large and of tinned iron. The arms and ammunition, especially old military muskets and muzzle-loaders, are fit only for the Gold Coast: Copenhagen weapons are cheap and good, £2 5s. being the average price of a breech-loading single-barrelled rifle. Pistols are not seen, and there is a tradition of the barrels being cut for alpenstock rings. Besides cereals, the stores supply sugars, brown, candy, and white, refined at Copenhagen; hams (rare); and no potted meats, so much wanted by travellers; sausages and sardines; butter (foreign sometimes); figs, raisins, prunes, and olive-oil. The Quincaillerie consists of pots and pans, boxes, funnels, kettles and watering-pots, lamps and lanterns. The walls are hung with leather for saddles, thongs, straps, and raw hides for shoes. There is an abundance of cheap crockery and glass ware. Paraffin and petroleum have lately come into general fashion; stearin candles are kept mostly for private use, and the peasants make their own farthing dips."

A BRAHMIN BULL, BENARES.

In the early days of our occupation of India, when we had only some small footholds round the coast, there were some of the Hindoo States where the killing of cows was strictly prohibited, and where the beef-eating Englishman had to exist without his favourite article of food. This is all changed now in India, and there is only one region where it is still unlawful to take the life of one of these animals, and that is in the dominions of the Maharajah of Cashmere. He is a Hindoo, and there are many sacred places, particularly in the Vale of Cashmere, to which pilgrims go from all parts; and as we have no troops within the territory our Government have no reason to interfere, and hence the old custom is still in force, and it only occasions a grumble at times from the visitors to the "Happy Valley," who go there in the summer, when they find that they are restricted to mutton and "Murghis," or fowls. In Hindoo cities, more particularly in sacred cities like Benares and Muttra, the Brahmin's Bull is a principal individual. He roams about the streets, and shows that he has those religious tendencies which are found in other parts of the world, and which often give credit to the character of people. He is given to what at home here would be called "church attendance"—that is, he is constant and diligent in frequenting the temple; but, alas! like some of those who go regularly to church, the Brahmin's Bull is influenced by motives of a very mundane character. The Hindoos bring flowers to the temple, in some cases in large garlands, of bright orange marigolds; and this is the incentive which makes the living form of Nandi visit the places where puja, or religious ceremonies, are performed. Nandi is the Wahan of Siva, and small images of the bull in this character are shown in our illustration, natives being seen in the act of adoration to the god or his emblem. The temples of Siva are to be counted by hundreds in Benares, and the whole city is peculiarly sacred to that god; some of the streets are almost nothing else but shrines, and it is one of these that our illustration represents. Many of these streets are very narrow, and it is often difficult to get past the lazy animals. It was in one of the early days in January of last winter that the Prince of Wales visited Benares; but when he visited the Golden Temple, and had a ramble through the streets, they were cleared of these sacred beasts, so as to form no obstacle to the Prince and his party.

THE VOLUNTEERS.

Prize distributions again formed a feature of interest in the Volunteer world last week.

That of the 28th Middlesex took place at St. Pancras Vestry-hall, under the presidency of Colonel Peters, the late commanding officer of the battalion. Among the principal prize-winners were Messrs. Sleigh, Giles, and Jeffery. The prizes won by the members of the 39th Middlesex were presented to them in their drill-hall, Penton-place, by Alderman Sir Andrew Lusk, M.P. Colour-Sergeant Hoeling won the first battalion prize for the third year in succession. Colour-Sergeant Hamston was winner of the badge as "best shot" of the regiment; and Major Young was the final winner of the champion gold badge.

The annual presentation of prizes to the London Irish, which up to the present year has been held in Westminster Hall, took place in St. James's Large Hall. Lieutenant-Colonel Ward presided. Among the principal winners were Captain Howland Roberts, who won the Gold Challenge Medal, and "best shot" badge for the second year in succession; Sergeant Burrowes, the winner of the Duke of Connaught's prize, the Battalion Challenge Cup, the Burke Challenge Cup, and other prizes; and Sergeant Carrington, who secured the Markmen's prize. A company were the winners of the Volley Challenge Cup, E company taking the Battalion Efficiency prize, and C company taking the Daubeny Challenge Cup. After a vote of thanks to Lady Roberts, who distributed the prizes, had been carried to acclamation, the proceedings were finished by a ball.

The 19th Surrey had their prizes presented to them at their head-quarters in Kennington Park, by General Allen, who was accompanied to the platform by the Duc de Marignan, and other distinguished gentlemen. The best shot of the regiment was Colour-Sergeant Russell, who was the recipient of the "three-star" badge. During the evening the commanding officers presented a testimonial from the members of the regiment to Sergeant-Major Laverock.

The members of the 26th Surrey (Shaftesbury Park) received their prizes from the hands of Lady Peek. Prior to the distribution, Sir Henry Peek, M.P., who presided, made a short address. The chief winners were Private Johnson, Lieutenant Wheaton, and Corporal Coleman.

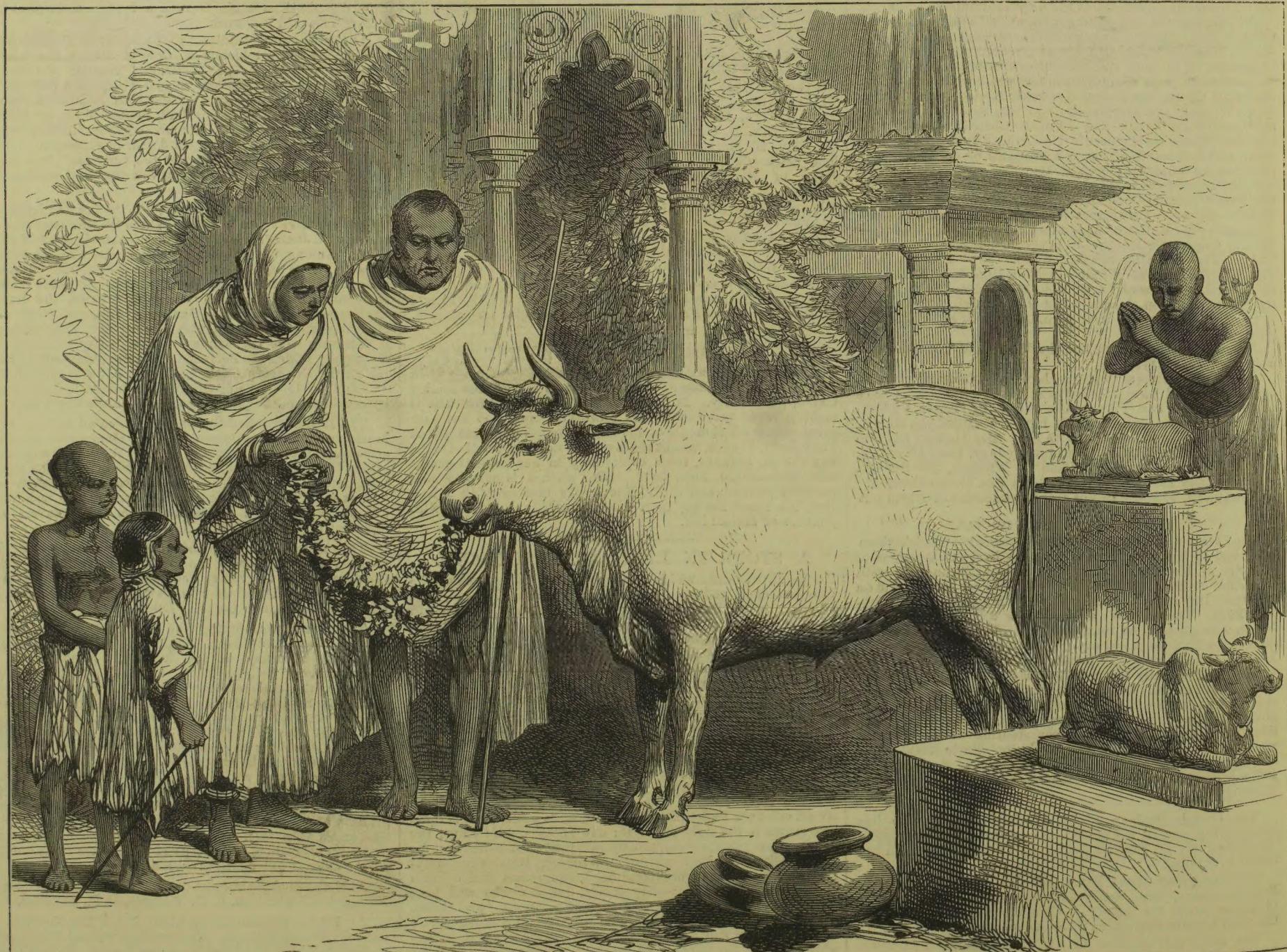
The prizes won during the last year by the members of the 1st Middlesex Engineers were presented to them, on Saturday, in the drill-hall attached to their head-quarters, College-street, Chelsea, Lieutenant-Colonel Ransome, the commanding officer, presiding. The Colonel decorated Sergeant-Major Waterman with a medal for gallant conduct in the field that had been forwarded to him by the War Office. This had been won by the Sergeant-Major for a great deed of bravery in the Chinese war of 1860, after the capture of the Taku forts, and carried with it a pension of £20 a year. Although it had been recommended by Lord Napier of Magdala sixteen years ago, it had only just been awarded, the War Office sending with it a gratuity of £50 as some recompense for the tardiness displayed. The prizes were then handed to the successful winners, the chief amongst whom were Corporal Barnes and Sergeant Trask. At the close of the distribution a dance took place.

At the annual regimental dinner of the 30th Middlesex, at Faling, the Right Hon. S. H. Walpole, M.P., presided.

At Rhyl, on Saturday last, the 3rd Flintshire held their annual rifle competition. The weather was all that could be wished for, and the best shooting was made by Corporal Nicholls, Private Parry, and Corporal Cleaver, who took respectively the first, second, and third prizes. Prizes were also taken by Messrs. Partington, Lucas, Amos, and Simcox.



A STORE AT REYKJAVIK, ICELAND.



A SACRED BULL, BENARES.



"FATHER'S COMING!" BY HENRI BOURCÉ.

"FATHER'S COMING!"

Of all the paintings that excite admiration in our picture-galleries the most welcome to dwellers in great cities are, beyond doubt, the fresh and bright seascapes that smack of the salt-sea air. Eyes involuntarily brighten whilst looking at Hook's radiant transcription of sparkling green seas on which a fisherman's boat buoyantly rides—the crew a brown-faced, rugged Pegotty, and a sunny, blue-eyed boy, with an open countenance. Quieter and more subdued in tone than Hook's exhilarating pictures is the original of "Father's Coming!" the painting by M. Henri Bourcet, reproduced in our present Number. Yet one was drawn to this natural realisation of an everyday phase of seaside life by the suggestiveness innate in every good marine tableau. It was impossible to study the painting of "Father's Coming" without forming in imagination a companion-picture in which the gentle summer sea tremulously rippling over the sands was lashed to fury in the winter and dashed in grey masses with a roar on the beach up to the very feet of anxious grand-dames and mothers and children peering out into the darkness for a glimpse of a brown sail whilst their hearts beat with an intensity of dread. Realised to the life, it will be remembered, was this painful feature of fisherfolks' existence in a powerful painting whose merits could be discerned although it was "skied" in Room No. 1 at the last Academy Exhibition. We yet retain a vivid recollection of the rough, weather-beaten old salt round whom gathered a group of fisherwomen, old and young, a bairn clinging to his mother's skirts, and all gazing with terrible eagerness on a craft which the painter did not reveal to us, but which might have been within an ace of being wrecked within eyeshot of the crowd on the beach. That bold and touching picture of a storm on our rock-bound coast comes home to us with especial force this Christmastide, for from John o' Groat's to Land's End gales have raged with great violence, and there has been a lamentable loss of life, except where the gallant Life Brigade of the Tyne, and the brave crews of the National Life-Boat Association have rescued shipwrecked mariners from imminent death. These acts of heroism are the silver lining to the storm-cloud, and fill us with a deeper respect for the brawny sons of the sea, who, modest, if uncouth, in appearance, are cast in the true heroic mould. But, if not sunshine after storm, it is a scene of soothing calm we find limned in the seapiece of M. Henri Bourcet. "Father's Coming" is a seaside idyll—a touch of nature such as recompenses the hardy fisherman for the perils he has to face in winter to win bread for his dear ones at home. The bit of coast here imaged is placid in its summer beauty; the smooth waters, spreading-mirror-like over the yellow sands, reflect the azure heavens, shot with gold at sunset. Here a brown young couple in their teens may be seen spelling out the old, old story, as they sit confidingly on the half-buried mast, which peradventure floated ashore from a wreck; and close by a happy mother holds her infant aloft to greet with its little hand the smiling skipper scanning the group from the bow of the "Spinning Jenny;" the family gathering being completed by the bent figure of an aged grandmother, to whom the children's glad cry of "Father's Coming!" may have a deeper meaning as she sits musing—the sweet calm that rests on land and sea suggesting the divine quiet of another world.

THE EASTERN QUESTION.

The first full sitting of the Conference at Constantinople took place last Saturday, under Safvet Pasha's presidency. Safvet Pasha, in opening the proceedings, spoke of the liberal views of the Sublime Porte, which, he said, was ready to grant its subjects all privileges that were not contrary to the dignity and integrity of the empire. The Conference first proceeded to verify the full powers of the Plenipotentiaries. A short time after the opening of the proceedings salvoes of artillery were heard, and Safvet Pasha explained that the salutes announced the promulgation of the Constitution, which would effect a complete change in the state of Turkey.

A full summary of the Constitution has been telegraphed to the representatives of the Porte abroad. It provides for the indivisibility of the empire in the first place, and in the next place affirms that the Sultan is the Caliph of Mussulmans and Sovereign of all the Ottomans. Islam is the religion of the State, but the Government is not to be a theocracy, and subjects of all religions and races are to have equal rights. There are to be two legislative houses—the Senate, to be nominated by the Sultan; the Chamber of Deputies, to be elected by ballot in the proportion of one member to every 100,000 inhabitants. The members of both Houses are to be paid, and there is to be a dissolution every four years. Local government is provided for by a system of municipal councils.

There have been demonstrations in Constantinople in honour of the new Constitution, and, according to some accounts, cries were raised of "Down with Russia!"

The telegraphic news purporting to come from Constantinople is contradictory. One despatch, which affirmed that Lord Salisbury had presented an ultimatum to the Porte, was obviously premature, at least. According to a telegram of Wednesday night, however, Lord Salisbury is said to have informed the Sultan that the Powers are unanimous in insisting upon the adoption of their proposals.

Midhat Pasha, the Grand Vizier, visited the Ambassadors and Plenipotentiaries on Tuesday, and, in the course of conversation, he is said to have foreshadowed that objections would be raised by Turkey, especially as regards the question of guarantees and the employment of a foreign gendarmerie.

The next sitting of the Conference was to take place on Thursday; but no intelligence respecting it had reached us at the time of going to press with our early edition, except a telegram by way of Paris stating that the prolongation of the armistice until Jan. 15 had been agreed to.

While these peace negotiations are proceeding preparations for war are not relaxed. Thus we read that the defences of the Turkish frontier are being rapidly pushed forward, troops every day arriving at or leaving Constantinople. Army corps are being formed, and Generals are being sent to their destination. The Egyptian regiments which recently arrived from the Servian frontier, and expected to remain at Constantinople, have been sent to Varna. It is stated that the Porte, in the event of war, will arm forty battalions of National Guard of Constantinople, comprising men of various religions. From Belgrade we hear that war between Russia and Turkey is regarded there as certain, and we have also a confirmation of the report that Russia is furnishing Servia with supplies of money to enable hostilities to be recommenced at the close of the armistice. Reuter states that the Russian General Nikitin has arrived at Belgrade to take command of the Servian army, as General Tchernajeff will not return to that post. A correspondent at Bucharest sends an outline of the arrangements determined upon by Russia in the event of the Grand Duke's army crossing the Pruth. A commission will be appointed to regulate all civil affairs in Roumania; Russian officers will command the whole line to the Danube, and others will aid the station-masters on the railways, while at all the principal stations dépôts of provisions are to be established. Some 500 Russians, mostly

cavalry and armed, passed the Danube on pontoons, from Thurn Severin, in Servia, on Wednesday. We give at page 633 an Illustration, from the pencil of Mr. Schönberg, of Russian volunteers at the railway station, Paschkanyi, Moldavia, on their way to the Danube.

Heavy rains have been falling in Constantinople, nevertheless the ceremonies connected with the feast of the Kourban Bairam have been celebrated with great pomp, in presence of a large number of spectators.

The decree of Oct. 6, 1875, which announced that for five years only half the interest on the Turkish debt would be paid, has been withdrawn.

The Roumanian Chamber of Deputies have voted a bill rendering it incumbent upon the parishes to tend the fields and maintain the families of the reserve men who have been called out for military service.

The difficulty between Austria and Servia has been settled.

FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

FRANCE.

(From our Correspondent in Paris.)

Thursday, Dec. 28.

The preparations for the Jour de l'An are on the eve of completion. The customary sheds line the boulevards, and articles adapted for étrangères crowd the shop windows. The confiseurs are, as usual, to the fore, headed by Siraudin, who produces the "Bonbon Capoul" apropos of the favourite tenor's success in Massé's opera, "Paul et Virginie," which bids fair to run its couple of hundred nights. As yet there is no predominant toy, though we have both the "Question Serbe" and the "Question Turque"—reminiscences of the once famous "Question Romaine"—with other toys and puzzles, suggestive of the state of matters in the East. Still, there are no signs of a *joujou à grand succès*; but possibly one may make its appearance on the Jour de l'An itself.

If the Parisians have had no political news of particular importance to discuss during the last few days, they have had plenty of scandal to occupy themselves with—notably, the shocking affair in which M. de Germeyn, the son of a Regent of the Bank of France, a municipal councillor of Paris, and an advocate of distinction, figures as the accused. The young Marquis de Castellane, a member of the Chamber of Deputies, has, moreover, been the hero of several scandalous rumours this week. M. Rochefort's journal, *Les Droits de l'Homme*, originally started the report that the Marquis, who is one of the reactionary party's most promising orators, had been expelled from two leading Parisian clubs on the charge of cheating at cards. Several days having elapsed without this statement being contradicted, other journals propagated the slander, and some of the Marquis's Parliamentary colleagues talked of formally bringing the matter before the Chamber. M. de Castellane has, however, since categorically denied the charge, and has, moreover, commenced legal proceedings against *Les Droits de l'Homme*.

The Senate has recently voted the re-establishment of the office of Military Chaplain, of which the Chamber of Deputies had decreed the suppression by striking the *auxomiers'* salaries out of the estimates for the coming year. The result is a Parliamentary conflict, which is assuming rather a serious aspect. The Republican party contests the right of the Senate to modify the Estimates as voted by the Chamber of Deputies, while the Monarchical Senators contend, on the other hand, for financial privileges equal to those enjoyed by the Lower House. The situation is a difficult one, and M. Jules Simon will need all that diplomatic suppleness with which he is credited to enable him to steer clear of the rocks ahead and to ensure a life of some duration to the Ministry over which he presides.

The Countess de Montijo is still prosecuting her campaign against those newspapers which published, some time ago, a false certificate of birth, purporting to be that of her daughter, the Empress Eugénie. It will be recollect that the *Evenement*, the *Droits de l'Homme*, and other Parisian journals were recently fined £160 each for this offence. This week fines of £100 have also been imposed on the *Avenir de la Vieille de Poitiers*, and the *Progrès Liberal* and the *Dépêche de Toulouse*, for having published the certificate in question.

When Marshal MacMahon, acting under the advice of M. Jules Simon, recently appointed M. Jules Meline to the post of Under-Secretary of State for Justice and Religion, the Monarchs attacked the nomination on the ground that the office might altogether be dispensed with. To-day M. Meline is still the object of vehement attacks; but his adversaries have changed, and it is M. Gambetta's organ, *La République Française*, which charges him with having been a member of the Commune. During the past few days there has been an entertaining exchange of leading articles and *communiqués* between this newspaper and the Government, whose assertions that M. Meline was elected against his will, and never took any part in the proceedings of the Commune, have been proved incorrect. True enough, M. Meline resigned three or four days after the first meeting of the insurrectional assembly, but the very wording of his letter of resignation shows that he was a Communist at heart. It is difficult to say which fact is the most surprising—that Marshal MacMahon should have signed M. Meline's nomination, or that the latter should have found such a bitter adversary in M. Gambetta, who was always supposed to have warmly sympathised with the rising of 1871.

ITALY.

The Chamber of Deputies ended, yesterday week, the discussion of the Estimates, and adjourned until Jan. 15.

The Pope received the Cardinals on Christmas Eve, and Cardinal Di Pietro read an address written by Monsignor Amat, senior member of the Sacred College, who was absent on account of ill health. This address presented to his Holiness the congratulations of the Cardinals on the occasion of the festivals of Christmas and the New Year. The Pope, in reply, said:—"We live in stormy times. The revolution seeks to destroy the principles both of Divine and human law, and to shake the foundations of society. It is the duty of the chiefs of the Church to oppose this barbarism by which we are assailed." His Holiness proceeded to speak of the persecution of the Church in Germany and of the bill presented to the Italian Parliament relative to abuses of the clerical office, a measure which he characterised as unjust. He spoke in terms of praise of the conduct of the German clergy; and with regard to the Italian priesthood he expressed a hope that its past history would serve it as a guide for the future. In conclusion, the Pope recommended union in order to oppose the revolution, which endeavoured to destroy the Church. The Church, he added, would triumph in the end, as she had triumphed in former times.

HOLLAND.

In the Second Chamber, yesterday week, the Budget was adopted in its entirety, the clauses relating to the colonies being voted by 53 against 9. The Primary Education Bill was then laid before the House. It maintains unsectarian principles in elementary schools, and increases the salaries of the teachers. It also modifies the present system of education.

Intelligence has been received at the Hague from Atchin that the Rajah of Simpangolim has withdrawn his submission to the Dutch authorities, and has taken to flight. The commander of the Dutch forces has consequently declared him deprived of his dignities. It is added that the chiefs and inhabitants of Simpangolim appear to be well disposed towards the Dutch.

GERMANY.

The German Parliament, on the 21st inst., passed the remaining clauses of the Penal Code Bill at its third reading, according to the compromise proposals. The House subsequently voted the Civil Code Bill and the Bankruptcy Bill, and finally all the judicial bills, in their entirety. The bill for the constitution of the courts was adopted by 194 to 100 votes. The President then read an Imperial message announcing that the Emperor would close the Parliament next day with a Speech from the Throne. The House adjourned, after giving three cheers for the Emperor at the proposal of the President.

Yesterday week the German Parliament was closed by the Emperor William. In the Speech from the Throne his Majesty referred with gratification to the measures that had been passed, especially those which would assist in effecting the legal unity of the country. He hoped that when the members met again they would be able to direct their exclusive attention to this subject. With regard to the Eastern Question, the Emperor said that the negotiations, as far as they had hitherto proceeded, justified the hope that his efforts, and the conciliatory and peaceful intentions of the Powers immediately concerned, would successfully solve pending questions, without prejudice to the good relations now existing. Germany would continue, by friendly and disinterested mediation, to lend her co-operation for the attainment of this end.

RUSSIA.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Times* reports that two sons of the Ameer of Bokhara, accompanied by a numerous suite, have been received by the Emperor of Russia. Seid Mir Nadjin Eddin, the elder of the two brothers, said the object of his mission was to congratulate the Czar upon the annexation of Ferghana, the last independent remnant of the late Khanate of Khokand. He had brought with him a younger brother, Mirmansur, who would have the advantage of being educated in a Government academy at St. Petersburg. The Czar, in reply, expressed himself gratified by what he had heard, after which Mersi Hisam Toksaba, the special Ambassador accompanying the Princes, assured his Majesty of the eternal devotion and attachment of the Khan.

The Grand Duke Nicholas, Commander in Chief of the Army of the South, has been seriously ill, but he is reported to be better.

EGYPT.

Telegrams from Cairo announce that Mr. W. G. Romaine has been appointed English Controller-General under the arrangements of Mr. Goschen's and M. Joubert's plan, while General Marriott has been appointed chief of the European administration of Egyptian railways. The Supreme Council of the Treasury has been abolished.

AMERICA.

The Speaker has announced the names of the House Committee on the Presidential dispute. They are Representatives Paine, Hunter, Hewitt, Springer, M'Corry, Hoar, and Willard. The Supreme Court of Florida has ordered the Returning Board to re-canvass the presidential votes according to the full returns. The Board, who at first refused to obey the order, have reconsidered their decision, and have re-counted the Presidential votes according to the full returns. The result is to give the electoral vote for Florida to Mr. Hayes, and the State Government to the Democratic party. Both the Democratic and Republican South Carolina Legislatures have finally adjourned without coming to a compromise. The Democratic Electoral Committees of Pennsylvania have issued an address to the people of that State reviewing the political situation, and declaring that Mr. Tilden and Mr. Hendricks, the Democratic candidates for the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the United States, are elected. The Democrats in Illinois have summoned a convention of the party in that State to consider the question of the Presidential election and support the rights of the House of Representatives.

It is announced from Washington that, in consequence of the surrender of Brent, the United States Government again will put in force the Extradition Treaty with this country. The correspondence between the British and the American Governments on the subject of extradition has been laid before the Senate, and President Grant accompanies the transmission of the documents with a note in which he says:—"Our Government is now prepared to consider the question of an amendment of the treaty, increasing the class of offences for which extradition may be demanded."

Both Houses of the Legislature have suspended business till Jan. 3. The Joint Committee will sit during the recess.

After making all the awards in respect of the Alabama claims, the Commissioners find themselves with a residuum of eight million dollars.

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

A despatch from Madeira, after stating that "native affairs on the Cape frontier are satisfactory," says that General Schlickman, with a hundred volunteers, attacked a native fortress eighteen miles from Secocoeni's stronghold; the attack was repulsed, and General Schlickman killed. Cetshwago has informed the Government of the Transvaal that he intends to hold the Drakenburg boundary line.

The four Cape Town newspapers, mostly antagonistic in their views, are reported to be unanimous in condemning the leniency of the Court of Inquiry into the conduct of the master and officers of the troopship St. Lawrence.

INDIA.

Magnificent preparations have been made at Delhi for the Imperial Assemblage on Monday next, New-Year's Day, when Her Majesty's title of Empress of India is to be proclaimed.

The Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal, the North-Western Provinces, and the Punjab arrived on Thursday week. The Commander of the Forces in India and the Commanders in Chief in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies are in camp. The Delhi camp is stated to be the largest ever formed in India, and, scattered over the environs of the city, covers an area of not less than twenty square miles. Yesterday week over 12,000 men, including contingents from the Bombay and Madras armies and the Punjab frontier force, were reviewed in the presence of an immense concourse of people. Numerous civilians and chiefs were present.

Lord Lytton, the Viceroy, made his public entry into Delhi on Saturday last. His Excellency was accompanied by many civil and military officers, native chiefs and Princes, and the procession formed a most brilliant spectacle. The Viceroy and the officials rode for the most part on elephants, very few being on horseback. They were accompanied by six regiments of cavalry and two batteries of artillery, the whole procession forming a line three miles in length. The route, which was upwards of six miles long, was lined with troops throughout, and the concourse of spectators was everywhere immense. The steps and terraces of the Jumma Musjid were also crowded

with on-lookers. The enormous mass of spectators and the appearance of the chiefs in magnificent dresses sparkling with jewels, who, with their retinues, seated on elephants and camels, were grouped at various points, produced a most splendid effect. There were altogether upwards of 1000 elephants on the ground. The ceremony, which passed off very successfully throughout, lasted four hours.

A Reuter's telegram, dated Christmas Day, says:—"Yesterday and to-day have been days of rest. The Viceroy, accompanied by his family and suite, attended Divine service in the camp yesterday and at Delhi church to-day."

On Tuesday the Viceroy received visits from the Maharajah of Oorcha (Tehree), the Ambassador of the King of Siam and his suite, accompanied by the British Vice-Consul from Bangkok, the deputation from the Maharajah of Nepaul, the Nizam of Hyderabad, the Maharanas of Dholepore, Jhallaar, and of Oodeypore and Meywar, the Maharajahs of Cashmere and Travancore, the Maharajahs of Ulwur and Boondone, the Nawabs of Tonk and Bhawalpore, the Maharajahs of Churtpore, Benares, Bulrampore, Nabha, Kerowlee, Kissenghur, Jeypore, and Mysore; the Rajah of Jheend, and the Guicowar of Baroda.

Lord Lytton was, on Wednesday, visited by the Maharajah of Rewa, the Begum of Bhopal, the Maharajahs Scindia and Holkar, and twelve other native dignitaries, to each of whom he presented a magnificent memorial banner and medal. The Viceroy afterwards visited the Maharajah of Cashmere, the Maharajah of Jeypore, the Nawab of Bhawalpore, the Rajah of Jheend, and eleven other native chiefs.

Twelve lives have been lost by a collision at sea, in the Indian Ocean, off Vingorla, near Goa.

The English cricketing team now in Australia beat the Goulburn team on Friday, the 22nd inst.

A Reuter's telegram from Montreal states that a convent near Joliette has been destroyed by fire. Thirteen persons perished.

The Queen has appointed Sir David Patrick Chalmers to be Chief Justice, and Mr. James Marshall and Mr. T. W. Jackson to be Puisne Judges of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast.

Madame Perron, an old lady who lately died at Paris, has bequeathed 85,000f. to the Municipality at Marseilles for founding an asylum for unfortunate dogs and horses.

Recognition has been given by eleven Mexican States to the Iglesias Government, which has established itself at Queretaro. The capture of President Lerdo de Tejada and the execution of several of his Ministers, announced in New York telegrams from Mexico, has not been confirmed.

The emigrant Clyde-built ship the Zamora sailed from Queenston on the 21st inst., bound for Brisbane, Queensland, having on board the following number of emigrants, under the charge of Dr. Hill Wray:—149 single men, 75 single women, 63 married people, 27 children between the ages of twelve and eighteen; and 7 infants—making a total of 325 souls. The single women are under the care of the matron, Mrs. Curry, this being her fifth voyage.

A Wesleyan missionary, the Rev. George Brown, has returned in safety from an exploration of twenty months on the unknown coasts of New Britain and New Ireland. He crossed the latter island, which he found well populated. "No white man was ever seen inland before, but no opposition was offered to the explorers. A difficulty was experienced in getting the natives to go any distance from their villages, as they are so often at war with one another. Plenty of proofs of cannibalism were found. One of the party, on going into one house to light his pipe, saw a woman roasting the thigh and leg of a man who was killed the day before." The exploring party were interested in the curious legend of the tribe of "tailed men" which is met with in many uncivilised countries, but they did not succeed in getting any further than secondhand testimony. "The natives," it is stated, "of Blanche Bay, New Britain, affirm positively the existence of a race of men with tails at a place called Kali, and deny indignantly that they are monkeys, asking if monkeys could fight with spears, plant yams, make houses, &c." But it is added that the interesting race dwell in the interior of the country, "where no white person has ever penetrated."

The Duke of Coburg has conferred upon Sir Julius Benedict the distinction of Commander of the Second Class of the Saxe-Einestine family order.

The committee of the Izaak Walton Memorial for Stafford have intrusted Mr. Richard Belt with the commission to execute the monument of Walton.

A handsome drinking-fountain has been erected in Drogheda as a "token of the respect and esteem" in which Mr. Benjamin Whitworth, M.P., is held in the city.

The choice by the Pope of a coadjutor-Archbishop for the Roman Catholic archdiocese of Tuam, with right of succession to the Most Rev. Dr. M'Hale, has fallen upon Dr. M'Evelly, the present Bishop of Galway.

As many as 15,873,934 packets and boxes of medicine were stamped in the year ended March 31 last, the duty being 1d. where the price was 1s. The amount of revenue received on patent medicines was £123,136 9s. 10d.

A railway collision, attended by loss of life, took place, last Saturday afternoon, at the Arlesey siding station, four miles north of Hitchin, on the Great Northern Railway. The 2.25 express train from King's-cross cut through a luggage-train that was in the act of being shunted, causing the deaths of the driver and stoker of the express and three passengers, and serious injury to some thirty more of the passengers.

The Queen in Council has approved a scheme for the administration of the Tottenham Grammar School, founded at the beginning of the last century, and endowed under the will of Sarah, Dowager Duchess of Somerset. One of its masters was William Baxter, nephew of the celebrated Richard Baxter. The school buildings have been much enlarged, and the school will be reopened next month as a second-grade school, under the mastership of Mr. H. Chettle, of Exeter College, Oxford. When the leases of the estate at Godalming fall in, in a year or two, it will be largely increased.

On Thursday afternoon was launched, from Devonport Dockyard, H.M.S. Condor, another addition to the rapidly increasing flotilla of small unarmoured vessels of, for their size, great offensive power. She is 170 ft. long, and of 774 tons displacement. Her armament will consist of three guns—a 100-pounder amidships and a 64-pounder chaser at the head and at the stern. The estimated speed of the ship when completed is ten knots, and her total cost is estimated at £33,000. The religious service authorised by the Archbishop of Canterbury was used at the launch by the dockyard chaplain. Miss Atkinson, niece of Rear-Admiral G. O. Wills, performed the ceremony of launching the vessel. Shortly after the launch, preparations will be made for proceeding with the keels of two more vessels of the same class.

THE CHURCH.

PREFERMENTS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Allen, Charles, to be Rector of Thenford.
Arlington, A. M.; Vicar of Radby, Lincolnshire.
Barlee, W. H.; Senior Curate of Slaugham; Vicar of Billingshurst, Sussex.
Barton, J.; Vicar of Christ Church, Harrow-on-the-Hill.
Beck, J.; Chaplain of Rotherhithe Workhouse.
Beechey, St. Vincent, jun.; Rector of All Saints', Newton Heath.
Bird, J. J. S.; Vicar of Colerne, Wilts.
Boutflower, Charles; Vicar of Terling.
Browne, Barrington Gore; Perpetual Curate of All Saints', Alton.
Buckmaster, Edward; Incumbent of St. Michael and All Angels, Maidstone.
Bussell, B. T.; Vicar of Ware.
Chambers, George; Rector of West Putford with East Putford.
Clegg, John; Vicar of Lockburn.
Cissold, H. B.; Rector of St. Saviour's, Walcot, Bath.
Colmore, W. H.; Vicar of Moseley, near Birmingham.
Crump, Thomas; Vicar of Downton.
Daniel, Rowland; Curate of Llanusda.
Davey, W. Harrison; Sinecure Rector of Llandewy Velfrey.
Dimock, N.; Vicar of St. Paul's, Maidstone.
Dyke, Edwin Francis Hart; Rector of Orpington, Kent.
Edmondes, Charles Grisford; Sinecure Rector of Angle, Pembrokeshire.
Eyre, H. T. W.; Vicar of Great Totham.
Francis, Herbert O.; Curate of Great Torrington and Chaplain to the Torrington Union.
Fry, George Artour; Vicar of Dodworth.
Greenham, J. F.; Vicar of Holy Trinity, Halstead, Essex.
Gull, Joseph Edward; Incumbent of St. John the Baptist's, Little Hulton.
Gurney, Joseph John; Vicar of St. John de Sepulchre's, Norwich.
Hague, Samuel; Vicar of Kingsley, Cheshire.
Handley, Edward; Rector of Clipsham, Rutland.
Hardisty, William Lane; Rector of Everdon, Northamptonshire.
Hart, E. H.; Vicar of Bentley.
Hawkins, J. B. H.; Rector of Chelwood.
Headach, Albert Workman; Vicar of Friarmere.
Heberden, Henry Buller; Rector of Stapleton, Gloucester.
Herbert, G.; Vicar of King's Pion with Birley.
Hippisley, William; Rector of Meavy.
Hole, H. T.; Rector of Plympton St. Maurice, Devon.
Huntingford, Edward; Perpetual Curate of St. Saviour, Valley End.
Les, John Hodgson; Archdeacon of South Staffordshire.
Jamieon, John Awdry; Vicar of Ellacombe, Torquay.
Jeffcock, J. T.; Rector of the Collegiate Church of St. Peter, Wolverhampton.
Jones, George; Vicar of Herriard, Basingstoke, Hants.
Kenrick, C. W. H.; Vicar of Poulton, Wilts.
Lawson, Robert; Incumbent of Peasedown, St. John, Bath.
Little, George S. L.; Vicar of Honingham, near Leamington.
Lovely, George; Vicar of St. Mary-at-the-Key, Ipswich.
Mangan, James; Vicar of St. Mildred's, Canterbury.
Manley, Richard Harry; Rector of Stoke Climsland.
Mason, William; Vicar of Long Horsley.
Moore, Charles Thomas; Vicar of Breedon-on-the-Hill.
Morgan, Lewis; Chaplain of Lambeth Parochial Cemetery, Tooting.
Mumford, Robert Francis; Rector of Rishangles, Suffolk.
Newton, William Fretwell; Perpetual Curate of St. Mark's, Preston.
Nisbett, William; Curate of St. Martin-at-Palace, Norwich.
Parr, E. G. C.; Assistant Chaplain West Riding Prison, Wakefield.
Pettitt, W.; Vicar of St. Paul's, Shanklin.
Poole, H. J.; Rector of Howell.
Prescot, Oldfield Keisall; Chaplain of Bournemouth Sanatorium.
Pritt, Francis Drinkall; Perpetual Curate of Coldhurst.
Quilter, Frederic William; Perpetual Curate of Shirebrook.
Ratcliffe, Charles Bowring; Vicar of Thurton, Norfolk.
Shires, C. B. Shires, Curate of Winwick; Vicar of Harwood, Lancashire.
Sidebottom, Kingsford Beauchamp; Rector of Swithland.
Slatter, John; Honorary Canon of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.
Stampy, W. H.; Perpetual Curate of Ingleton Fells or Chapel-le-Dale.
Stock, W.; Rector of Great Wenham, Suffolk.
Stone, William; Rector of Grateley.
Thompson, C. M. M.; Rector of Middle Clayton and Vicar of East Clayton.
Unwin, C. E.; Rector of Corsington.
Vine, F. T.; Domestic Chaplain to the Marquis Conyngham.
Waters, R.; Rector of Sunderland.
Winterbottom, E.; Vicar of St. Andrew's, Portslade-by-sea.—*Guardian*.

A silver inkstand and books, of the value altogether of nearly £200, have been presented to the Bishop of Calcutta by the clergy and laity of his Lordship's late archdeaconry of Chester. In the absence of the Bishop of the diocese, Mr. Wilbraham Egerton, M.P., presided at the meeting, which was held in the Chapter-House, for the purpose of making the presentation.

The Advent course of lectures, on Friday evenings, at St. Michael's, Wood-street, was brought to a close by a sermon of remarkable force and solemnity by the Rev. McConnel Hussey, Vicar of Christ Church, Brixton, addressed more particularly to young men, who have attended in large numbers the entire course. The Rev. Prebendary Cadman and the Rev. Professor Stanley Leathes each delivered striking and interesting addresses on previous Friday evenings.

Dulverton church, Somerset, which was restored throughout and almost rebuilt about twenty years ago, has been much improved under the present Vicar. During the past year three stained-glass windows have been erected in the chancel—one by the Earl of Carnarvon, as a memorial to his father; another by the parish and neighbourhood, as a memorial to the Dowager Countess of Carnarvon, who died during the summer; and a third by Mr. Keppen, as a memorial to his father. A fourth is in hand, presented by Mr. T. M. Dodginton, which is likewise a memorial to his father.

The Duke of Marlborough presided, yesterday week, at a meeting at Woodstock in aid of the restoration of the church, at a cost of £5000. His Grace expressed the hope that the work would be completed before he returned from Ireland. The Bishop of Oxford and Lord Randolph Churchill, M.P., were amongst the speakers. The latter remarked upon the extraordinary progress which had been made during the last fifty years in the restoration of ecclesiastical edifices. At the commencement of the century ruined cathedrals and neglected churches were the rule, but now they are the exception.

At St. James's, Hatcham, on Sunday, the Rev. Canon Gee presented himself with a license from the Bishop of Rochester to supersede Mr. Tooth. The latter, however, declared his intention to resist Mr. Gee's entry, and read a statement of his reasons for declining to submit to the inhibition pronounced against him. Mr. Gee demanded a copy of this, which Mr. Tooth promised should be sent to him, and the Canon then retired under protest, the proceedings having been conducted, we are told, with perfect courtesy on both sides. The service was then proceeded with in the usual way. On Monday no one appeared on the Bishop's behalf, and the Christmas services were conducted with very high ritual.

On Thursday week, at Holy Trinity, Paddington, there was full choral service in connection with the opening of a new organ, built by Messrs. Lewis, at a cost, including the chamber adaptations, of £2200. The service, consisting of anthems, chants, and hymns, was rendered with much effect by a surpliced choir of ninety voices, composed, in addition to the usual members, of several gentlemen and choristers from St. Paul's Cathedral and the Chapels Royal. Mr. Edwin Barnes presided at the organ. At the same time were exposed to view a new pulpit and a lectern—the former a work of singular beauty, the supports being of coloured marbles, and the panels being filled in with figures and subjects, admirably carved in alabaster.

Lord Houghton has consented to unveil the Burns statue, in Glasgow, on Jan. 25.

Her Majesty has granted a pension of £50 a year to Mr. Thomas Edward, of Banff. In communicating the fact of her Majesty's bounty to Mr. Edward, the Premier says:—"The Queen has been much interested in reading your biography, by Mr. Smiles, and is touched by your successful pursuit of natural science under all the cares and troubles of daily toil."

METROPOLITAN NEWS.

We are requested to state that the loan collection of scientific apparatus at the South Kensington Museum will be closed after to-day, the 30th inst.

The president and council of the Society for the encouragement of the Fine Arts gave a conversazione at the Suffolk-street galleries on Thursday evening.

We are informed that the proprietor of White's Club has succeeded in arranging for the extension of the lease of the present club-house for thirty-four years.

Baroness Burdett-Coutts has, it is stated, purchased Cooper's-garden Chapel, Shoreditch, recently in the occupation of the Primitive Methodists, for £2000, in order to establish a science institute for the district.

The drawings for the prizes offered by the Goldsmiths' Company for designs for plate are exhibited in the Royal Architectural Museum and School of Art, 18, Tufton-street, Dean's-yard, Westminster.

Baron Pollock, on behalf of himself and other old Paulines, has presented an address to the Rev. Dr. Kynaston on his retirement from the office of High Master of St. Paul's School. As a testimony to his life-long labours, they have founded the "Kynaston Prize," to be awarded annually for proficiency in grammar and philology.

At a wardmote held, on Thursday, for the election of an alderman for the civic ward of Aldersgate, in the place of Alderman Besley, recently deceased, the choice of the electors fell, without a dissentient voice, upon Mr. John Staples, who has been connected with the ward for many years, and has filled with great credit several important offices in the Corporation, including that of chairman of the Commission of Sewers and a member of the Common Council.

The weekly return of metropolitan pauperism shows that the total number of paupers last week (the third week of December) was 83,669, of whom 38,114 were in workhouses and 45,555 received outdoor relief. Compared with the corresponding weeks in 1875, 1874, and 1873, these figures show a decrease of 4500, 12,920, and 22,272 respectively. The number of vagrants relieved on the last day of the week was 723, of whom 526 were men, 156 women, and 41 children.

Subscriptions towards the Stafford House Fund for the Relief of Suffering among the Turkish Soldiers have been received to the extent of nearly £5000. Among others, the Duke of Portland has subscribed £1000. Orders were on Saturday last telegraphed to Constantinople to purchase 2000 blankets, and send them immediately to the front for the sick. The committee have bought in England and are now sending out 4000 warm jerseys and 2000 pairs of stockings. The Marquis of Ormonde has joined the general committee.

A deputation of Jews waited upon the Earl of Derby, last Wednesday, to ask his good offices on behalf of their co-religionists in Turkey and the Principalities. In the Treaty of Paris in 1856 a clause protected the rights of Christians in Roumania; but the Jews were not specified, and they have been persecuted there and in Servia for many years. Lord Derby promised to send the memorial to Constantinople for the British Embassy, to see what could be done in respect to the Jews in Turkey; and he will see what he can do to improve their position in the Principalities.

Weston did not succeed in achieving his great walking task last week. By half past eleven o'clock on Saturday night he had walked 460 miles, being forty-five short of the distance he undertook to accomplish. He intends, however, to try again, within three months. His three "opponents," as they are termed, walked in all a little more than 486 miles. This week the indefatigable, never-daunted Weston is engaged in another match at the Agricultural Hall, having undertaken to walk 400 miles in five days, picking up an English competitor at the completion of each twenty-four hours.

A special conference of the National Union of Elementary Teachers was held, on Thursday, at the hall of the Society of Arts, Mr. Gardner, vice-president, in the chair. Mr. Greenwood brought up a report of a committee, which recommended the establishment of a provident fund based on the mutual and deposit principles, and that it be optional to any member to belong to one of two classes, either ordinary or deposit; and that the scheme should provide funds for sick pay, payment at death, annuities, endowments, and medical attendance. He moved that this be adopted, which was seconded by Mr. Heller, and agreed to. The conference then proceeded to discuss the details of the scheme proposed by the committee.

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Board of Works, yesterday week, an exchange of land was agreed to, whereby the Metropolitan District Railway Company will erect the Charing-cross station under the railway bridge, so as to have a frontage to Northumberland-avenue, and the Board will be enabled to open Villiers-street through to the Embankment. A return was submitted showing the comparative rateable annual values of property within the metropolitan area in 1856 and 1876. From this it appeared that the value in the former year was £11,283,663, and in the latter £23,111,313. While the number of houses had increased about one third, the rateable value had more than doubled.

We learn from the *City Press* that a deputation from the Ward of Farringdon Without attended, last week, at the chambers of Mr. R. N. Philpotts to present to him the address of thanks which was unanimously voted at the wardmote last year. The vote is beautifully emblazoned on parchment, with various shields of arms introduced into the border. The shields are those of the various counties and boroughs where Mr. Philpotts exercises magisterial powers—viz., the West Riding of Yorkshire, Middlesex and Surrey, the boroughs of Sheffield, Westminster, and Pontefract, to which are added the Lieutenantcy of London and the University of Cambridge.

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AT HOME.

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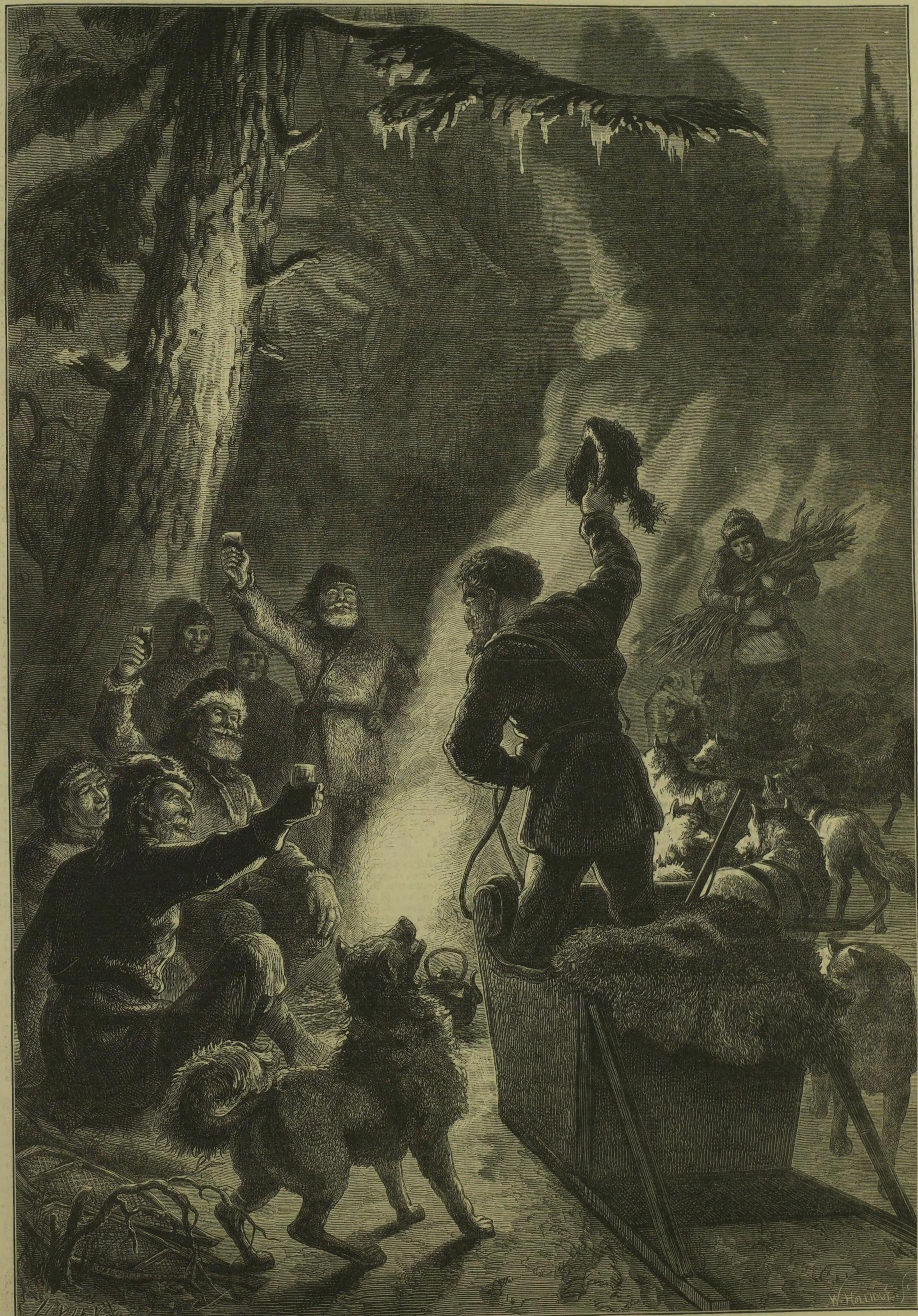
ABROAD.

An edition printed on thin paper, especially prepared for the Colonies and Foreign Countries, is issued weekly, and can be forwarded by post at the following rates:

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via Southampton	1d	Sweden	1d
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Denmark	1d	United States	1d



CHRISTMAS IN FLORIDA.



CHRISTMAS IN THE HUDSON'S BAY TERRITORY.

The Extra Supplement.

"HOMELESS."

Mr. Buckman appeals forcibly to our sympathies in this sketch. It tells of certain suffering, of possible wrong-doing. But let him that is without sin cast the first stone. Besides, there are the children, whose claim on our tender regard is indisputable. Mark, too, how carefully the poor woman shelters her babe, tightly straining her flimsy shawl so as best to screen it from the pitiless pelting of the storm! What is her history? There is a refinement in her comely features that may indicate gentle nurture. Wedded in haste, has she been deserted by her selfish husband and driven out into the cold night to procure food for her little ones by the disposal of her wedding-ring? This homeless wail has possibly strayed to the quarter most familiar to her, and is gazing with aching heart at a blind whereon are shadowed well-known forms she never more may see—unless, indeed, the humane influences of the Christmas season move a stern father to pity the absent daughter whose sad plight shows how rigorously time has punished her youthful disobedience and self-will. Be her story what it may, the picture reminds us of a wholesome lesson. Notwithstanding the large amount of loving-kindness shown at this season of the year, when Christmas, with its holy associations and tender remembrances, opens the heart, it lags heavily in the rear of the huge mass of misery which necessarily—at any rate, certainly—exists in the vast fluctuating population of such a place as London. Numerous charitable agencies are at work in the metropolis for the material and moral benefit of the destitute, as shown by the lists given daily just now in the morning papers of societies soliciting help from the charitably disposed for their works of beneficence. Something about one of the most meritorious and unostentatious of these societies will be found in another column. Acting on the maxim that prevention is better than cure, those agencies which seek strenuously to set right this unhappy and anomalous state of things, and to make the shiftless shift for themselves, merit our most earnest aid. Meanwhile let us not shut our ears to the cry of misery, nor keep our hands closed until we find that all is strictly correct.

CHRISTMAS IN FLORIDA AND IN HUDSON'S BAY TERRITORY.

To convey some notion of the conditions under which Christmas is celebrated in Florida, it will be necessary to give some account of its climate. Although not within the line of the tropics, yet it is very near to that warm region; the Gulf Stream, which flows north, keeping Ireland green as it sweeps past the shore of that verdant isle, and makes Iceland possible to live in, sends the first influence of its hot tide upon the shores of Florida. The Southern States which fringe the Gulf of Mexico are all so tropical in their climate that they are not comfortable lands for the white man to live in; and it is a still further evidence of their climatic condition that, just as they are unfitted for the Caucasian, they are places where the negro thrives and enjoys life more fully. As the winter in the Northern States is a trial to the dark-skinned race, so the summer of the Gulf States is a similar trial to the constitutional organisation which is covered with a white cuticle. Another characteristic of the climate is found in its influence on children. The baby of the negro flourishes in robust health, while the white baby pines under the heat, and it requires the greatest care to rear it up to anything like health or strength. Those who know what babies are in Calcutta can form an idea of what they are in Florida or Louisiana. This will explain how Christmas in Florida is represented by a languid young lady, whose condition is the evident care of those around her. She is in a terrestrial paradise, with palms and flowering trees of all kinds around her, and a lawn where croquet can be played in winter; and where, at first thought, we all would wish to be, instead of here, among the colds and fogs of our Northern winter. From this, we should be reconciled to the state of our climate. If Florida has a splendid growth of trees of all kinds, the countries of the North have stalwart men; if Florida has flowers in the garden at dead winter, the daughters of the lands where winter is a reality have roses on their cheeks worth all the flowers of the world; and these outward signs of health and vigour we owe to a particular latitude, which gives snow and ice as accompaniments in the celebration of our Christmas.

As a contrast to Christmas in Florida we give an illustration of that festival as held in the Hudson's Bay region, among the pines and snows of a Northern latitude. The descriptions of the late Arctic Expedition have made us familiar with the cold of this part of the world, and of the conditions necessary to protect life where the thermometer sinks to so many degrees below zero. Just as the Tropics are too far south, so the Arctic regions are too near to the Pole for the thorough enjoyment of life. In both cases the contest with the climate is too hard to allow of any satisfactory pleasure. The chances of having your nose or any of the appendages of your feet bitten off by the intense frost is a stopper to much that is necessary for holding festivals and undertaking merriment among your fellows. Hudson's Bay is not quite so bad as the localities where the Alert and the Discovery lay, and where the officers and men spent their last Christmas. Still, it is far enough North to make those who live there familiar with frost-bites in winter and with snow-blindness in summer; and yet we see in our illustration that a friend can come in his sleigh—driven by the same kind of dogs used in the Arctic sleighing parties—on a visit to his friends, who are evidently having roaring fun, and are welcoming him with tumblers of something good, and no doubt warm. Here is no languid sick one, lying helpless on a chair, but sturdy men with good lungs, who will sing round the fire and make the echoes of a chorus ring among the branches of the pine-trees. Christmas may be gone through as a duty under the tropics; but it is only in a land of snow and ice—and pine-trees, if they can be got—that a real Christmas can be celebrated. In India the necessity for a fire, from old associations, is felt to be necessary; the Englishman thinks it is not a proper Christmas without it, and one is often kindled "just for the look of the thing"; but the ladies and gentlemen all sit in another room, from which it can be seen and not felt. We talk of Buddhism and Brahminism as teaching ideas which lead to asceticism, whereas we should talk of the thermometer as indicating the real cause. A Jogi sitting motionless the whole day, contemplating the point of his nose, presents a custom which is not likely to be followed in a latitude where the mercury sinks below zero for more than one half the year. In the land of Brahma the cow is worshipped, and its life is too sacred to be touched. In the land where Father Christmas holds his revels the same animal supplies the sirloin of beef; and this food, though not looked upon as sacred, is considered as peculiar to the season. Such substantial fare is demanded by the climate, and with it come other accompaniments, all which tell us of the outward appearance of this yearly feast, as it is celebrated in such opposite parts of the world.

NOVELS.

Just as it is a refreshing change to pay an occasional visit to a suburban theatre, and seek relief from the quiet comedy of Society plays in the exciting incidents of melodrama, so it may relieve a novel-reader full of ennui to turn to the thrilling romance of *As the Shadows Fall* (Samuel Tinsley), vigorously written by Mr. J. E. Muddock. There is a weird picturesqueness in the very opening scene—a gloomy hollow near a darksome tarn, into whose depths Crazy Blanche plunges, to relieve herself of the cares of this world, after she has left her two young sons in charge of the lime-burner whose home is a hut hard by. When the lime-burner fails in his attempt to rescue Crazy Blanche, and realises the fact that he will be apprehended when her body comes to be found in the lake, he seeks safety in flight with his wife and their two charges. Who is Crazy Blanche, and what the cause of her suicide? the reader involuntarily asks himself at the end of this stirring prologue. The answer comes in the ensuing chapters of the three sensational volumes, in which Mr. Muddock disposes of one of the luckless children left to the tender mercies of the lime-burner by permitting a lion to escape from his den in a menagerie and kill him, and only rewards the surviving orphan with happiness after he has been secretly married as a gardener to the high-born daughter of his master, after he has been separated from her through the treachery of her cousin, after he is on the brink of being drowned, after he is eventually proved to be of equal rank and fortune to his wife, and after numberless other vicissitudes for which the lovers of highly-seasoned fare may be referred to the animated pages of *"As the Shadows Fall."*

The three volumes in which Mr. Frank Barrett relates the story of *Maggie?* (Tinsley Brothers), though not entirely lacking the sensational element, are as the poles asunder compared with *"As the Shadows Fall."* In *"Maggie?"* more attention is paid to the development of character; the current of life pursues the even tenour of its way, only now and then ruffled by a startling incident; and London and its suburbs are throughout the scene of the story. Very early we are interested in the fortunes of the *Birch* (for which may be read, we believe, the *Hornsey Hornet*, now appealing to a wider circle of readers as the *Hornet*, the management of which, it may be parenthetically remarked, has lately been changed, and changed for the better). This bright, satirical little paper brings together its editor, Henry Carey, and his foremost contributor, Bernard Vaughan, who forthwith becomes a member of the Carey family circle, together with Maggie, the note of interrogation attached to whose name in the title presumably indicates the mystery surrounding her identity. Maggie is avowedly the sister of Bernard Vaughan, who watches over her, however, with the solicitude of a lover. But Mrs. Carey's brother, Bob Heath, also falls in love with Maggie; and, in the end, there seems to be no valid reason why they should not be joined together in the holy bonds of matrimony early in the second volume, except that the young lover has not an income to support a wife with—a mere material question which a novelist cannot be expected to be prosaic enough to take into consideration. Save that confirmed gambler and trickster at cards, Bob's uncle, all the principal dramatis personæ appear to be invited to a party given by Mr. and Mrs. Vernon (both capitally drawn characters), at The Cedars, Norwood, to celebrate their daughter's birthday and their acquirement of the *Birch*. To this feast comes the Mephistopheles of the drama, a forbidding-looking man, rejoicing in the name of Compostella, at sight of whom Maggie is filled with fright and Bernard Vaughan so angered that he knocks him down. It turns out at last that this Compostella had run away with Bernard's sister; but, as the poor girl had died and Maggie was simply her bosom friend, there scarcely seems to be a sufficient reason for the long-enduring hesitation of Maggie in accepting the love of Bob Heath when she herself returns his love. The time occupied, however, in making the acquaintance of the Vernons, the Careys, the Heaths, and Bernard Vaughan and Maggie is so agreeably spent that the anomaly indicated does not spoil the enjoyment of what is a novel of considerable interest and greater promise.

PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL BOARD.

The London School Board has issued a notice, drawn up in accordance with the Elementary Education Act, 1876, and the by-laws of the board, showing what will be the state of the law in regard to children and their parents and employers in the metropolis after Jan. 1. Under the head of "Regulations affecting Parent and Child" it is laid down:—"The term 'parent' includes guardian and every person who is liable to maintain or has the actual custody of the child. The parent of every child between the ages of five and fourteen must cause such child to receive efficient elementary instruction in reading, writing, and arithmetic. A. By the by-laws of the School Board, which continue in force, the parent of every child between the ages of five and thirteen must cause such child to attend an efficient school during the whole time for which the school is open. The following cases are excepted:—(a) Where a child is receiving efficient instruction in some other manner; (b) where a child of not less than ten years of age has received a certificate that he has passed the fifth standard of the Code of 1871, in which case he is wholly exempt from attendance at school; (c) where a child of not less than ten years of age has obtained a certificate that he is beneficially and necessarily at work, in which case he is exempt from the obligation to attend school more than ten hours a week; (d) where the child cannot attend school through sickness or other unavoidable cause. If a parent commits a breach of the by-laws he may be summoned before a magistrate and fined 5s., and the child may be ordered to attend school. B. By the Act of 1876, if either (1) the parent of a child above the age of five years who is prohibited from being taken into full-time employment habitually and without reasonable excuse neglects to provide efficient elementary instruction for his child; or (2) a child is found habitually wandering, or not under proper control, or in the company of rogues, vagabonds, disorderly persons, or reputed criminals—the parent may be summoned before a magistrate and the child may be ordered to attend school. If the attendance ordered be not complied with, the parent, if in fault, may be fined 5s.; and, in cases of continued non-compliance, the fine may be repeated at intervals of not less than a fortnight. The child may also, under certain circumstances, be sent to a certified day industrial school, there to be detained during certain hours each day for a stated period, or to an ordinary certified industrial school, there to be wholly detained for a stated period, which, however, must not extend beyond the time when the child shall reach the age of sixteen years. In either case the parent may be made to contribute towards the maintenance of the child."

The proprietors of Clifton College have resolved to apply for a charter of incorporation with a view to the college being placed on the same footing as the public schools.

SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF THE MONTH.

We have for many years past been drawing attention to the serious deficiencies of our ironclad fleet. We have pointed out the fact that, unless armour were thick enough to keep out hostile shot, it was safer and better that ships should be divested of armour altogether; and that, in the matter of guns, the object to be aimed at was concentration rather than diffusion, and that a few large and heavy guns were better than a whole century of small ones possessing neither range nor penetration. In these matters our own Government has been singularly obtuse. But the Italian Government, in its two monitor vessels, the *Duilio* and *Dandolo*, has given approximate expression to our ideas. These vessels are each 103 metres long, 18 metres beam, and 11 metres deep. They are turret vessels without sails and wholly propelled by steam. When cruising the draught will be 8 metres, but in action the fore and aft compartments will be run full of water, which will make the draught 8.37 metres. The vulnerable parts will be defended by armour 22 in. thick on the water-line 18 in. above, and 14 in. below. Each vessel has two turrets, each containing two 100-ton guns; and the two turrets are not in midships, but one is placed somewhat to the right of the central line and the other to the left, so that the guns may fire either fore or aft. The hull is built on the cellular principle, with a distance of about one metre between the skins; and there are numerous bulkheads. The vessels have rams, and tubes are provided for the discharge of Whitehead torpedoes in the line of the vessel's progress. In the stern of the vessel there is an iron door, which, when opened, permits a boat to issue from a tunnel with great velocity, and this boat is to carry a torpedo, which is quickly to discharge against the offending vessel. This part of the plan strikes us as too dilettanti, and would be unavailable if the ship were pitching in any degree. We think, too, that one turret with two guns of twice the size would have been better. But the design of these vessels is creditable to its authors, and correspondingly discreditable to us in allowing ourselves to be thus outstripped.

The quicksilver-mines of Almaden, in Spain, which are believed to have been wrought by the Carthaginians and the Romans, and which until lately constituted the chief source whence the supplies of quicksilver consumed throughout the world were drawn, are now exposed to a severe competition from the quicksilver-mines discovered in California. The gold-diggers in California in the course of their explorations came upon particles of a reddish mineral of high specific gravity, which on analysis was found to be cinnabar, and there are now numerous quicksilver-mines opened in California. The quicksilver is brought to market in iron bottles. The total present consumption per annum is about 100,000 bottles, of which California yields about 60,000 bottles, and Almaden about 25,000 bottles. The workmen in the mines cannot work more than three hours a day without the risk of being poisoned. Under proper arrangements and with proper ventilation the yield of the Almaden mine could no doubt be very much increased.

At a late meeting of the Glasgow Philosophical Society Sir William Thomson delivered an address on Dr. Kerr's electro-optic and magneto-optic discoveries and their relation to Faraday's previous investigations, in which he showed by experiment the effect of magnetism in causing polarised light to rotate in passing through transparent bodies. He also showed the velocity at which light rotates in contrary directions, explaining that it had been held that rotation among the molecules of matter was the essence of magnetism.

Baldness, it is stated, may be arrested and the hair restored by the application of petroleum. A little is to be poured on the palm of the hand and rubbed briskly over the peccant part.

The Smithfield Cattle Show which took place during the past month was very deficient of interest in the machinery department. The same old apparatus was exhibited by the same old makers, and there was a marked sterility of resource in every department of agricultural engineering.

An alloy described as white as electro-plate is produced by keeping for between two and three hours at a bright red heat a mixture of one part of manganese ore in powder, one part of powdered copper scales, and two parts of bone black. A plumbago crucible is found to be the best for heating the mixture in, and a button is turned out which resembles German silver.

The *British Trade Journal* quotes from a technical German publication some particulars of the composition of emery-wheels made in that country. The emery-wheels in general use consist of emery cemented into a mass by shell-lac; but, at the high velocity at which such wheels have to be driven, the shell-lac softens and the wheels burst or turn greasy. In the German stones the particles of emery are cemented together by soluble glass. This, however, is the very same material that has long been used in cementing together the particles of sand in Ransome's artificial stone. The best emery-wheels appear to be the tanite wheels made in America, and only lately introduced into this country, and they seem to be destined to fulfil important purposes in the arts.

It is stated that the daily production of pins in Great Britain is about 50,000,000, of which Birmingham produces 37,000,000. The rest are made in London, Warrington, Stroud, and Dublin.

Soap is not necessarily the alkaline salt of a fatty acid, but a salt of an alkaline base giving with water free alkali. It may, consequently, be made without oil or tallow, and chemistry will, no doubt, be able to produce various soaps into which these ingredients do not enter. Already the manufacture of silica soap has assumed important dimensions. It is made by mixing silicate of soda or soluble glass, with ordinary soap. For hard soap nine parts of soda-ash and eleven parts clean sand are melted in a furnace; and for soft soap equal weights of carbonate of potash and sand. The products are dissolved and mixed mechanically with soap paste.

The *Lancet* has an article upon the pernicious effects of London noises, in which it is stated that though the wood pavement is giving important relief in crowded thoroughfares, yet that there are other noises still more destructive of comfort and tranquillity than the rattle of the streets. Who can tell the miseries of a student or an invalid living in a row of pasteboard London houses, with a squalling woman and a violin on one side and a tyro practising the piano on the other? Then, as the *Lancet* says, "the organ-grinder, the German band, the coster's yell, are instances of a tyranny over weak or strained nerves that ought to be suppressed. Church bells, which in the country undoubtedly have a charm, become, in a crowded city, a positive distress to many sick persons." The fact is there is a very imperfect apprehension of the principle of the social pact which lies at the root of every assemblage of mankind into communities, and which recognises the absolute liberty of every individual so long as he does not interfere with the rights and liberty and comfort of his neighbours. While, therefore, in matters of opinion, or in any matter not interfering with others, the greatest latitude should be allowed, all such frauds as adultery, and all such nuisances as street noises should be vigorously suppressed by whatever means are found to be necessary for that purpose.

CHRISTMAS ENTERTAINMENTS.

We have already recorded the titles and subjects of most of the Christmas Pantomimes; but we have yet to add some needful details, and to state the result of their performance. For the most part they have been successful. We begin our register with the production at

COVENT-GARDEN.

Here we have the old argument of "Robinson Crusoe," rewritten by Mr. J. F. M'Archie, a Liverpool gentleman, who has arranged the book for Mr. Charles Rice, to whom the conduct of this elegant London theatre is confided for this festive season. Mr. Rice hitherto has spared no expense in mounting his pantomimes, and on this occasion has proved more generous than ever. The hero of the piece has a termagant and shrew for a mother, Mrs. Crusoe (represented by Mr. George Thorne), who is so overburdened with her responsibilities that she deputes her son and daughter to undertake their management. But son Tom is fond of the streets, and neglects the home-duties imposed on him, while his father has been "keeping it up" all night. Mrs. Crusoe having engaged in the pursuit of her delinquent husband, her daughter Kate (Miss Lizzie Russell) is left to receive the attentions of a young naval lieutenant, Tom Trunion (Miss Pauline Markham), but their courting is broken off by the return of Mrs. Crusoe with her refractory mate, who determines to abscond. In the next scene he turns up at Southwark Quay, where we are much pleased with a capital set, presenting a thoroughly built ship, and a ballet characteristically nautical. Kate, following the fortunes of her lover, is on board the same vessel with her father and brother, when the ship gets under weigh. Mrs. Crusoe and her numerous family are just too late to prevent their departure, whereupon the desperate lady leaps into the sea. The crew are set fishing, and bring up a large shark, from whose mouth emerges the bereaved mother and wife. We may imagine her obtrusions, which, however, are soon dissipated by a rising storm, which leaves the vessel almost a wreck. At length we arrive at Crusoe's Island. A picture of the bay by Mr. Telbin evoked a tumult of applause. A ballet of sea-nymphs succeeds. What follows relates to the island life of Crusoe, who gives his twelvemonths' experience in a song, and rejoices in the companionship of a dog and goat, two real animals, that perform their parts as intelligently as they can be expected. There is also a clever monkey, represented by Mr. E. Lauri. Scenes of the Friendly Islands, much comic business, splendid processions, dances, fights, and choruses, all thenceforth devised for the amusement of the audience, until the whole of the Crusoe family are ready to return to England. The transformation scene is so gorgeous as to defy description. The harlequinade is very efficiently supported by Mr. Waite as Harlequin, Mr. Templeton as Pantaloons, Mr. E. Lauri as Clown, Miss Waite as Harlequina, and Miss Kate Hamilton as Columbine.

DRURY-LANE.

Our readers have been informed that "Harlequin and the Forty Thieves" serve for the pantomime argument, which is treated with all the elegance of Mr. E. L. Blanchard's facile pen. The curtain rose on one of Mr. Beverly's splendid pictures, a magnificent scene of Bagdad, in all its Oriental witchery. The Vokes family, as usual, were in great force, and appeared at once dancing, as if they had always done so, and never intended to cease. Their first set dance was encored. Then followed the Divan of the Genii, with a Peri ballet and some tricks played by a remarkable donkey, which will be remembered all through the year by the excited audience. The business throughout, it may be shortly stated, was singularly ingenious and copiously supplied with fun. The transformation scene showed Mr. Beverly at his best—presenting the Peri's Paradise with the gates ajar, as poetical as it was beautiful. From the oil-jars as they appear at the beginning emerge the dazzling fairies, until gradually they fill the space, in attendance upon Eureka and her assembled Court. The harlequinade that followed proved exceedingly good. As usual, a double company is provided. Messrs. Edward Dean and Charles Wilford as Harlequins, Miss Eva St. Pierre and Miss Fanny Lauri as Columbines, Miss A. Rosalind as Harlequina à la Watteau, Messrs. C. Lauri and F. Evans as Clowns, and Messrs. H. Lauri and R. Jones as Pantaloons, left nothing to be desired.

GLOBE.

The judicious manager of this theatre has resorted to Mr. Planché for an extravaganza, and reproduced "The Invisible Prince" for its holiday spectacle, originally produced at the Haymarket, in 1846. The sub-title is "The Island of Tranquil Delights;" and such, indeed, is the kind of pleasure which this elegant work is fitted to impart. The plot, as our readers are aware, is taken from the Countess D'Aulnay's story of Prince Lutin, a fairy tale of first-rate excellence. We need not narrate the particulars, as our limited space scarcely permits us to dwell on well-known incidents. The adder, the fairy, the magic cap, are all in the recollection of English playgoers. Once in the island, the Prince signalises himself by the rescue of Apricotina from marauders. All this and more takes place, until the happy ending leaves no more to be expected. The revival has been most carefully placed on the boards, with much exquisite scenery to match.

ADELPHI.

The children's pantomime at this theatre has been projected and provided by Mr. E. L. Blanchard; and, notwithstanding the difficulty of the task, has proved a great success. The subject is appropriate, "Little Goody Two Shoes; or, Harlequin Little Boy Blue." The performance is perfect of its kind, and provokes more of applause accompanied with intense delight than any stage exhibition within our recollection. It is indeed, thoroughly marvellous, and in parts irresistibly fascinating.

PRINCESS'S.

A new ballet-pantomime has been added here to the farce of "A Day after the Fair" and the tragedy of "Jane Shore," entitled "Jocko; or, the Brazilian Ape." This highly mimetic animal, long ago simulated by the clever Mazurier, is now represented by an American, Paul Martinetti, whose imitations are very good. The ballet is accompanied by some picturesque scenery, painted by Mr. Frederick Lloyd.

OLYMPIC.

The entertainment here is a temporary peculiarity, of Transatlantic manufacture, entitled "Si Slocum; or, the American Trapper and his Dog." The family of the Fraynes exhibit their skill with the rifle, and do many alarming and astonishing things. Mr. Clifton W. Taylour has contrived a regular drama for their introduction, and a most exciting affair it is. Firearms and bowie-knives play a conspicuous part in its action, which, to be appreciated, must be personally witnessed.

GAITY.

Mr. Robert Reece's "William Tell Told Over Again" has once again proved its author to be an adept in the dramatic art of punning. He has indulged himself largely in the pleasant vice. Mr. Toole supports the hero, and will ultimately, we doubt not, make a great hit in it. Miss Kate Phillips, as the son, was much admired. A skipping-rope dance by Miss

Rose Fox, was wonderfully well executed. The female dancers in general were very attractive in their picturesque attire, and had evidently been well drilled to personate the "Life Guards" which they were engaged to represent. The music, arranged by Herr Meyer Lutz, and the scenery, by Messrs. Harford and Gordon, do credit to the artists and composers.

STRAND.

"The Flying Dutchman" has here been converted into "The Lying Dutchman; a Phantom Folly," and in its new shape is sufficiently extravagant to provoke continuous merriment. The greater portion of the plot is indescribable, even if we had leisure to thread its elaborate interweavings. The dialogue, which is in prose, is enlivened with puns and jokes, and illustrated with songs, duets, and choruses. The leading parts are capitally well acted by Mr. J. G. Taylor, M. Marius, and Mr. Harry Cox. The music, by Mr. Alfred Lee, is remarkable for its liveliness; and the scenery by Mr. H. P. Hall is good enough of itself to make the fortune of the new drama, which is composed by Mr. W. Swanborough and Mr. Frank W. Green.

CRITERION.

A new play, by Mr. James Mortimer, entitled "Dorothy's Stratagem," was produced on Saturday. It is in two acts, and the theme is simple but interesting. The action deals with the results of an unequal marriage. Early in life Sir Frederick Selwyn, Bart. (Mr. E. Ashby), had formed a clandestine union; then, separating from his wife, they never again met. Dorothy Fielding, the heroine of the play (Miss Eastlake), is his daughter, and from her late mother holds a letter for him, which, however, his nephew counsels her not to present. She therefore resorts to disguise, and offers herself as a servant to his new wife, late Florence Mowbray (Miss Holmes). Sir Frederick becomes ill, and Dorothy waits on him with such assiduity that Lady Selwyn grows jealous. One Reginald Brooke (Mr. Charles Tritton), who had formerly loved the girl, denounces her as an impostor under a wrong name; but just at that time the nephew finds it his interest to produce the letter, which leads to an explanation and her reconciliation with Reginald. The piece is probably from the French. Miss Eastlake delineated the character of the heroine with propriety, but the other parts were not adequately filled. The audience nevertheless appreciated the new drama, which now, with the farce of "Hot Water," forms the Christmas entertainment.

ROYALTY.

The Offenbach opera of "Orphée aux Enfers" was revived for Boxing Night. Miss Kate Santley was the star of the evening, and personated Eurydice, adding to the score some music-hall vulgarities, which the audience were foolish enough to applaud. The other characters were respectably represented by Messrs. Walter H. Fisher, J. D. Stoyle, and others; and the revival bids fair to be popular. The theatre has been decorated with flowers, and looks pretty and attractive. The farce of "A Quiet Family" preceded the burlesque.

NATIONAL STANDARD.

We have already pretty fully described the argument of the pantomime, "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," at this theatre, known under the title of "Open Sesame." The general action is preceded by the sudden arrival of forty servants in livery, belonging to the Forty Thieves, and who are followed by Musjid Pasha on horseback (Mdlle. Rose Bell), under whose direction, as Captain, the cave is opened, and some of its treasure carried away on the back of Ali Baba's famous donkey. Of the many admirable spectacles in the piece that of a ballet deserves mention in which the robbers' swords and accoutrements are made to glitter in the gas, and Madame Sidonie executes one of her graceful dances. Another scene also may be especially commended, the market-place of Bagdad, with processions, including the stud of forty horses, richly caparisoned. An extravagant dance by Mr. Cyrus Bell was likewise deservedly popular with the audience. Altogether, this pantomime may be regarded as an East-End triumph.

SURREY.

This theatre is one of the homes of pantomime, and a right merry annual is expected from the popular management. Mr. Frank W. Green has provided a suitable entertainment. "Jack and Jill; or, Harlequin, Sing a Song of Sixpence, the Demon Blackbirds, and the Good Fairies of the Gold and Silver Ferns," form the composite title of the new transpontine Christmas spectacle. The dialogue, we may mention, bristles with puns, and the scenes, to the number of nine, are effectively painted. The scenes follow the succession of subjects mentioned in the title, and conduct the spectator to a splendid transformation, entitled the Frozen Regions of the Arctic Queen. The music is provided by Mr. Sidney Davis, and the ballet is illustrated by Miss Jennie Elliott and her sisters. Mr. Holland was twice called to the footlights to receive the cheers of the audience.

GRECIAN.

The pantomime at this house, supplied by Mr. George Conquest and Mr. H. Spy, possesses all the qualities conducive to the extraordinary success of its predecessors. Its full title is, "The Grim Goblin Octopus, the Devil Fish, and the Fairies of the Flowery Dell." The action is not wanting in the gymnastic exploits of Mr. Conquest and his son, which excite, as usual, the wonder of the audience. The plot is curious:—A goblin steals away the heart of a Princess and bears it to the summit of a lofty mountain—an idea poetical in itself, but here most prosaically treated. We have among the dramatis personæ a Queen, Grizzlegrief, who lives by washing and ironing, and is very drolly impersonated by Mr. H. Nicholls. The Princess Pearl, taking shelter from a storm in the royal cottage, falls in love with the Queen's son, Hopeful, and Grizzlegrief soon finds herself at court, under the protection of her deceased husband's brother. Miss Victor, as Jealousina, King Booby's Queen, was in her element, and elicited a world of mirth out of the cunning hints intrusted to her manipulation by the authors. The machinery by which Mr. Conquest enacts the Octopus is fertile of marvellous results. Mr. Campbell also, in a topical song, distinguished himself. The music throughout, indeed, deserves unqualified approbation. The ballets and dances are graceful and effective. The final fight for the Heart in the Dragon's Dell is so extraordinary that it can scarcely be described. Suffice it to mention that, by an angle flight from one side of the stage to the other, the father and son cross each other in mid air. At the end the lost Heart is recovered, and Prince Hopeful is made happy with the Princess Pearl. Some of the scenes are gorgeous, and the transformation most of all.

PAVILION.

"Gulliver's Travels; or, Harlequin Prince Rover and the Good Fairy Tricksy Wicksy," is the title of the Whitechapel pantomime. The piece consists of seven set scenes, each of great splendour for a minor theatre; the costumes also are comparatively rich. The fairy Coraline is impersonated by Mrs. James Carden, who also appears as Tricksy Wicksy, and sings with much taste and execution "The Love-bird's Kiss." Mrs. Carden has a well-trained voice; in fact, a finely-cultivated mezzo-soprano; and it was with satisfaction that we found its best qualities were highly appreciated by an audience disposed

in musical efforts to be singularly critical. We next make the acquaintance of Madame Mariani, the eminent vocalist, who, in the character of Nymphaline, sang two songs from "Don Quixote," as performed at the Alhambra. A Grand Fairy ballet introduces the Alexander troupe, well-known at music-halls, by whom, indeed, the comic element of the piece is rather coarsely represented. Of course the isle of Lilliput receives attention. Here two hundred children represent the inhabitants, and exhibit talent in various performances. The harlequinade is mainly supported by the Alexander Family.—At the East London, a new Irish drama, entitled "Nora O'Neil" was produced, the cast including Mr. Carden and the company of the Pavilion; so that the large and varied population of Whitechapel may now elect for their Christmas treat an original drama or a new pantomime, according to their individual taste.

At other theatres less distinguished appropriate subjects were treated pantomimically. At the Aquarium, as noted last week, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star," presents us with the story of a good and bad boy, under the influence of demons, who develop their respective characters in the course of their lives, and thereby "point a moral" which "adorns their tale." The theme is pleasantly treated, and brilliantly illustrated. At the Britannia the pantomime is oddly entitled "Turlututu; or, the Three Enchanted Hats," and composed by Mr. Frederick Marchant, who has invented its story as well as arranged its incidents. Mrs. Lane personates the character of Phosphorielle, the good fairy of the piece, and throughout commands the approbation of an audience so long acquainted with her individual merits. The transformation scene, by Mr. Charles, is remarkably brilliant; and the entire pantomime a great success. At the Marylebone, "Little Jack Horner, who sat in the Corner," succeeded in eliciting the sympathies of a crowded audience. The opening scene exhibited the Foundry of the Demon Bells—that of Bow, St. Clement's, St. Martin's, Old Bailey, Shoreditch, Stepney, and "The Fairy Blue Bells"—and the transformation is exceedingly pretty, representing Paradise under a dozen points of view, each more glorious than the former. At Hengler's the fairy spectacle of "Cinderella; or, the Little Glass Slipper," is bound to be popular, so skilfully are all the arrangements managed. The child Crowhurst, as rider of a bare-backed steed, exhibits wonderful feats of daring. The two Clowns, Ferdinand Auguste and Le Quips, are good. The entire entertainment is an honour to the Circus. At Sangers' Amphitheatre, "Gulliver on his Travels" has met with a splendid reception; the piece, however, is intricate in plot and over-elaborate in detail. The last scene exhibits the Frozen Ocean, with the Alert and the Discovery fixed in their winter quarters.

The Entertainments proper must come in for their share of eulogy. Mr. and Mrs. German Reed continue to prosper with Mr. Burnand's "Matched and Mated" and Mr. Corney Grain's "Table-d'Hôte," to which is now added "Our Doll's House," a new musical sketch. The Moore and Burgess Minstrels are next in the scale of merit. A special programme adds to the interest of the new season, and many are the novelties provided by these enterprising managers. The Polytechnic Institution also maintains its character for blending science with sport. The conjuring element is not omitted, and Mr. James Matthews gives instructions in legerdemain to the expectant juveniles who form a considerable portion of his audience. Mr. J. L. King exhibits "Famous Statues under the Limelight," and Mr. Hill his chromatropes and shadow-pantomime. There are also spiritualistic séances full of suggestion. Professor F. N. Gardner lectures on Andersen's fairy-story, "Hyldemar," and does full justice to "the Witch of the Elder-Tree." Messrs. Maskelyne and Cooke pursue a triumphant career, exposing imposture and performing some real wonders of their own in the way of artistic illusion.

The number of visitors to the British Museum on Boxing Day was 21,917—an increase on the number for the corresponding day of last year, which was 16,489, both far below a normal return. At the National Gallery the visitors are said to be very few; and at South Kensington the 15,000 were about 2000 fewer than last year. The Crystal Palace, where both indoor and outdoor amusements were provided, attracted over 44,000 visitors. About 9400 went to the Zoological Gardens; about 1800 paid for admission to the Tower; and the Brighton Aquarium was visited by 6075 persons.

The Lord Chamberlain has issued an address to the managers of theatres, directing them to make available for use in case of fire all possible means of exit, and suggesting that the staff of attendants should be trained so as to facilitate the safe and quiet departure of the audience from the different parts of the house. It is explained that this memorandum has been prepared in view of the crowded state of the theatres during the Christmas holidays.

According to a despatch from Singapore of the 23rd inst., the Malay Tribunal has sentenced the Maharajah Lela and six others to be hanged. It was thought probable, however, that this sentence would be commuted.

The Peers of Scotland met, yesterday week, at Holyrood Palace to elect two of their number to fill the vacancies in the representation in the House of Lords caused by the deaths of the Marquis of Tweeddale and the Earl of Leven and Melville. The proceedings, were presided over by Sir W. Gibson Craig, the Lord Clerk Register. The Earl of Mar and Kellie and Lord Balfour of Burleigh were declared elected.

At the close of last week a violent storm raged on the east coast of Scotland and over the North Sea. Numerous shipwrecks occurred, and the loss of life was great. Disasters of a similar nature are reported also from other parts of the kingdom, besides lands and houses being in many places flooded. Railway traffic has been interrupted, and in some places the public roads have been rendered impassable by the drifting snow. Several vessels were wrecked on Saturday last near Aberdeen; and at Wick a Russian barque, with eight of her crew, went down in the gale. The schooner Zephyr, of Cardiff, was wrecked on the Long Sand, on Sunday afternoon, and six of the crew were drowned, the captain and one man being landed at Harwich by a smack. On Monday morning the brig Mary, of Newcastle, was driven ashore in the Tyne, the crew being rescued by the life-boat. A conspicuous act of bravery was performed by part of the crew of the steamer H. D. L'ochin yesterday week. On perceiving a barque signalling that she was in a sinking state, there being a perfect hurricane and terrific sea, the second mate and six men volunteered to go in the life-boat, in launching which there was great difficulty; and it was only after four hours that they could approach close enough to the barque to effect the rescue of the poor fellows, some of whom were thrown overboard, but were saved by life-buoys. Over the north of Scotland a great snowstorm raged on Tuesday night, stopping the entire railway traffic in the Highlands. The train from Inverness to Edinburgh was caught by the storm while it was on the top of the Grampians, and became completely snowed in.



H.M.S. SHANNON.



GATHERING DATES IN CEYLON.

H.M.S. SHANNON.

This new ship, of which we give an illustration, has been built at Pembroke Dockyard. She represents an entirely distinct type of cruising ironclad. Her construction was ordered during the administration of Mr. Goschen. The Alexandra, lately launched at Chatham, is much larger and more costly than was considered prudent by the Committee on Designs for a masted ship. The Shannon, on the contrary, is smaller and less costly than was deemed consistent with efficiency by influential naval men. The considerations which ruled with regard to the first were that other nations had built, or were building, cruising ironclads more powerful than England possessed, and the Alexandra would tend to redress this inequality. On the other hand, with regard to the Shannon, it was considered that England ought to have a powerful ironclad navy, in regard to numbers as well as in regard to the efficiency of individual ships. It was estimated that a powerful and efficient ship, as compared with the second-class ships of foreign navies, could be produced for half the cost of the Alexandra. The new ironclad Shannon represents this view, as is shown by a comparison of the figures. The Alexandra has cost for hull and engines about £20,000, while the Shannon cost about £260,000.

The armour-plating on the hull of the Alexandra is 12 in. thick, that on the Shannon is 9 in. This thickness is as great as that in the Sultan, which is a far larger ship; but the Shannon can only secure this amount of protection for the hull and machinery by sacrificing the armour for the protection of her guns. Most of her guns have no armour protection

except against raking fire from ahead. The two bow guns are also protected by 9-in. and 8 in. armour against fire from ahead and from abeam. There being no armour on the sides of the ship in front of the guns except the two bow guns, they are more numerous than they would otherwise be, and are placed at a greater distance apart than usual. The two bow guns are 18-ton guns—that is, of the same weight as the heaviest in the Hercules and Sultan; and there are also seven 12½-ton guns. The two bow guns are worked under a forecastle, and fire from right ahead to abaft the beam. The after gun is worked on a turntable under a poop. The other six guns are in the open, on the upper deck. It is considered that the damage done by shells will be less with an open deck than it would be if there were a covering deck. The disadvantage of the arrangement is the exposure to musketry fire, and the necessity for getting all spars down and cleared out of the way, in going into action, to avoid the risk of disabling the guns with their wreck.

The ship has a single screw, which can be hoisted to facilitate sailing. She is fitted with a ram, which can be unshipped when not wanted for action. Her boilers are placed in separate boiler-rooms; and there is a water-tight bulkhead running down the middle of the ship between the two. The engines can be used either as simple or compound engines.

The Shannon is the first ship completed with the arrangement for carrying part of her coal supply in an unarmoured part of the bow, below the water and above a shotproof deck. This is an arrangement which is adopted in the Inflexible and other English ships, and also in the newest designs for the Italian, French, and German navies.

GATHERING DATES IN CEYLON.

In the more southern portions of India the palm is a chief feature of the landscape. In Ceylon this tree grows down to the water's edge. The eatable palm is the *Phoenix Dactylifera*. It is given on ancient coins as the emblem of Judaea, along with the inscription "Judea Capta." It is supposed to have given the name to "Palmyra," which was also called Tadmor, from *Tamar*, the Hebrew word for date. It is used on Palm Sunday in the Christian Church, and at the Passover by the Jews, from which it is evident that this particular tree was held of high importance in ancient times. This was no doubt owing to the great variety of uses to which it could be applied, and which we see still carried out in the present day. It is an article of food—many tribes living almost entirely upon this product. The juice makes a drink—the toddy of southern India is made from this source; and the trees are ascended there to tap the juice in almost the same manner as this of the Singalese to gather the dates. Sugar is also made from it, and the fibre is manufactured into ropes, mats, baskets, brushes, &c., while the tree itself is the principal part of those strange boats with out-riggers, called "ketab-ko-kishti," illustrations of which have appeared in our pages. The leaves are made into a great variety of articles, such as parasols and umbrellas, and coverings for roofs of houses and boats. With so much utility as is here indicated it is easy to understand how it became so important and occupies a place among the symbols of the East.

POPULATION OF TURKEY.

The Turkish Ministry of Finance issued, in 1867, a statistical notice, in which the population of Turkey is placed at 18,500,000 for Europe, 16,500,000 for Asia, with Cyprus; and 5,000,000 for Africa; making a total of 40,000,000 for the empire. But from this number must be deducted 9,000,000, or more properly 10,000,000, as belonging to the tributary States. This would leave 13,000,000 in Europe, 16,500,000 in Asia, and only 750,000 in Africa. In this computation Roumania is taken at 4,500,000, Servia at 1,250,000, and Egypt at 3,500,000. The total of 13,000,000 for Turkey in Europe is, however, too high, and, when checked by the local "Salnames" and other information, must be reduced to about 11,000,000. Messrs. Ubicini and Ccurteille put the total population of the empire, exclusive of the tributary States, at 28,500,000. From similar sources of information it appears that Turkey contains about 13,500,000 of the conquering race, the remaining 15,000,000 being an agglomeration of races of different origin, language, and religion; some 6,000,000 of them being Mohammedan. In European Turkey, however, there are only about 2,000,000 of Osmanlis, sparsely settled; whereas in Asia, and chiefly in Asia Minor, there is a compact mass of 10,000,000 to 11,000,000. As this fact is generally overlooked in proposals for driving the Turks out of Europe at any cost, perhaps it would be wiser to include in such proposals a few suggestions for dealing with the Osmanlis on the other side of the Bosphorus, instead of finding it better not to touch Asia. To the same group belong some 300,000 Turcomans in Asia and some 200,000 Tartars in Europe from the Crimea. The Greeks do not seem to number more than 1,000,000 in Asia and 1,000,000 in Europe, chiefly along the coasts and in the islands. The Albanians, although they differ so materially from the Greeks, are usually included in the Greek-Latin group. They have been variously counted, but form probably 1,000,000, of whom nine tenths are Mohammedan. The Coutzo-Wallachs, akin to the Wallachs of Roumania, are estimated at 200,000 south of the Balkan. The 250,000 of "oppressed" Wallachs in Servia are generally overlooked in stating the population of that country. The Slav group must be divided into Serbs and Bulgarians, the former more or less closely allied with the Servians who are Serbs, and the latter a supposed Turanian race with a Slav language and a Slav admixture. Statistics place the Serbo-Croats at 1,500,000, of whom, however, only a short million would appear to be Christian. The Bulgarians are estimated at 3,000,000, of whom a large portion, or even nearly a half, is south of the Balkan. Then there are some 50,000 Cossacks and Lipovans, who have been at various times driven out of Russian territory by the persecutions against the "old believers" of the Greek Church. The Turkish Government acknowledges the colonisation of 595,000 Circassians in Bulgaria, Albania, and along the Servian frontier, and also an immigration of about 400,000 into Asiatic Turkey. In European Turkey there are about 500,000 of Armenians, chiefly in Constantinople and a few large towns, whereas in Asiatic Turkey there are 2,000,000. To the same ethnographic group belong 1,000,000 of Ottoman Kurds in Asia, who are Mohammedan, but often hostile to the Osmanli. Lastly, there are in European Turkey about 200,000 Mohammedan gypsies and more than 100,000 Jews of Spanish descent, and in Asiatic Turkey about 1,500,000 of Arabs and others of the Semitic group.

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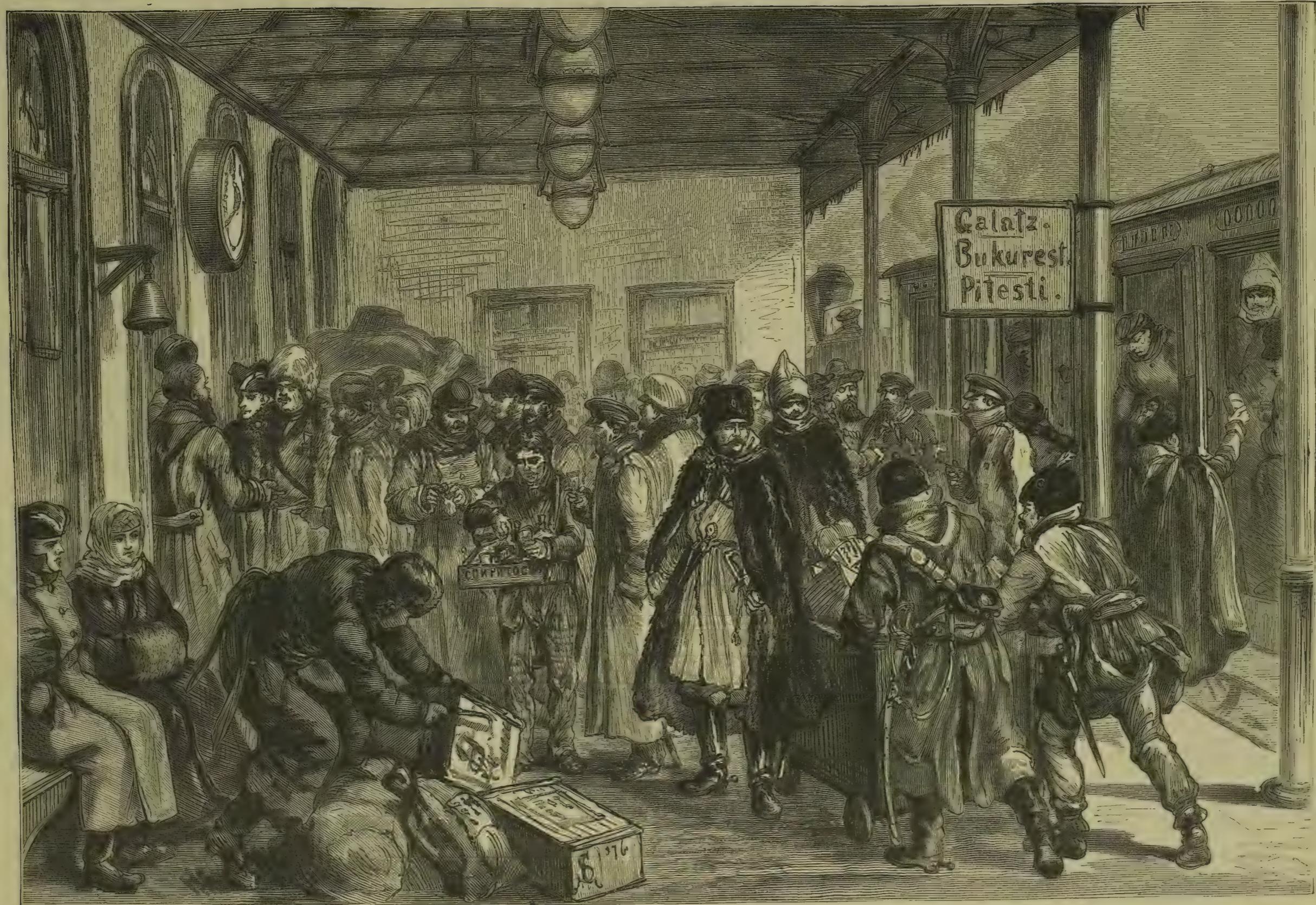
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THE EASTERN QUESTION: RUSSIAN VOLUNTEERS AT THE RAILWAY STATION, PASCHKANYI, MOLDAVIA, ON THEIR WAY TO THE DANUBE.

NEW BOOKS.

Some disappointment is likely to be caused by the title of the substantial and handsome volume called *Camille Desmoulins and his Wife*, translated from the French of Jules Claretie, by Mrs. Cashel Hoey (Smith, Elder, and Co.); for, at the first blush, it seems to promise something less hackneyed and more romantic than a historical essay based upon "passages from the history of the Dantonists." It is true that the contents of the book are said to be—and, no doubt, are—"founded upon new and hitherto unpublished documents;" but those documents, nevertheless, do not set in any very novel light either the characters of Danton and his friends and enemies, or the most striking events in their lives and in the ghastly records of the great French Revolution. There is much truth, however, in what the author says—and it is impossible not to sympathise with him in what he says—about the circumstances under which he, a disciple of Michelet's, performed the latter part of his self-imposed task. He had just "terminated his researches into the life and character of the men on whom he proposed to form a judgment," when "the late war between France and Prussia broke out, and the terrible days which led France for a moment to the brink of destruction ensued." He witnessed the painful birth of a new republic; and the scene lived vividly before his eyes and, undoubtedly, exercised a deep and, perhaps, a salutary influence upon him, as he proceeded to place upon paper the results of his investigations; for it was "not until after those dark days of cruel trial had come to an end" that he resumed his grievously interrupted labours. His work is, of course, for the most part, a study of the characteristics which distinguished Danton and his immediate associates, and of the causes which led to their final journey together in the fatal tumbril; and, in preparing his way before him, he seems to have unearthed certain documents which, whatever may be their intrinsic value, have, at any rate, the importance which belongs to authenticity and to a first appearance before the public. And, as regards Desmoulins and his wife, he seems to have been most successful in his discoveries; so that the title chosen by the English translator is, in no small degree justified. Moreover, as the author truly observes, "in the memory of men the romance of the life of Camille Desmoulins fills a larger place than its history." And that romance, it is hardly necessary to say, consists almost entirely in his connection with the beautiful Lucile Duplessis, whom he loved, whom he married, after much of hope deferred and of strong opposition, and whom he dragged after him, though Heaven knows how unintentionally, in all her loveliness and almost in her girlhood, for she was but four-and-twenty, to the cruel guillotine. To the description of Lucile's outward appearance the author adds a picture, chiefly drawn by herself in her own notebook, of her inner, moral, and mental nature. And very touching and charming the whole portraiture is. "In person," we read, "Lucile was of small stature, and very graceful; her beautiful hair fell around a smiling, childish face, one which Greuze might have painted. She did not exhibit, in appearance or manner, any of the vague disquiet which reveals itself in the pages of her journal." In those pages she depicts herself as having "a horror of men," and as being "made of marble." At this period she was but sixteen or seventeen, and her remorse at finding herself so misanthropical, or rather, perhaps, misanthropical, and so very hard and marble-like, is highly significant. It looks very much as if she were "on the brink." And so, when Pygmalion, in the form of Camille Desmoulins, arrives and falls straightway in love with her stony self, we might apply to him the phrase so familiar to us from the recollections of our Latin grammar—"In tempore ad eam venit, quod rerum omnium est primum." Aphrodite breathed life and warmth into the marble of Lucile, and she returned the love of the ardent Camille. But it was long before Lucile's father, a far more marble-like creature than she was, would give his consent; and, when that consent was wrung with difficulty from him, the first of the accusations from which Camille was to suffer was brought against him: he was charged with having married "a rich woman," for Lucile had a dowry of a hundred thousand francs. It may be remembered that all sorts of reproaches have from time to time been heaped upon the memories of both Camille and Lucile, regarded as man and wife. He has been described as "not slow to weary of his handsome wife;" he has been reported to have "flung himself into great affairs and into low intrigues," and to have soon "ceased to be loved." She has been declared to have been "not born in wedlock," but to have been a natural daughter of the Abbé Terray. Such reproaches our author pronounces baseless calumnies; and for the refutation of them, and of others like them, he professes to produce indisputable proof. Nor is his profession to be lightly questioned, save by those—and they must be few indeed—who have sifted the matter with a care and an authority equal to his. As for the personal appearance of Camille Desmoulins—a question upon which our author expends what may appear to some persons a disproportionately large amount of space and trouble, it must suffice to say that it his portrait, given on the frontispiece of the volume under consideration, be not open to a charge of flattery, his looks were well calculated, backed by his ardent disposition, by his sympathetic nature, and by his intellectual gifts, to make an impression upon such "marble" as his sweet Lucile considered to be an ingredient in her composition. The book shows unmistakable signs of earnestness, diligence, and sincerity, combined with cool judgment and a desire to be impartial; but it is put together in a somewhat disjointed and fragmentary manner, so much so, indeed, as to become occasionally a little bewildering. As regards the translation, it may not be impertinent to remark that, if the object be to make things easy for the English reader, there can be no reason why the many pieces of French verse should be left in the original tongue; for a reader who cannot understand French prose can scarcely be expected to be in a better position in respect of French poetry. However, it must be acknowledged that the translator has followed the usual practice, though it be a practice in which one can discern more rhyme than reason.

Melancholy as the fact may be, it is, nevertheless, indisputable, that the same expression, couched in the plainest of what is fondly called plain English, may convey a very different idea to different minds; whence it follows that the volume entitled *Studies in English Literature*, by John Dennis (Edward Stanford), is likely to arouse diverse expectations, varying according to the mental constitution of the expectants. It may be well to state at once, then, that the volume is a small one, as some men count smallness; that the number of studies is but ten; that seven of them would more properly, perhaps, be termed studies of character than studies in literature; that, even then, skimmings would, probably, be a more appropriate, though a less pretty, word than studies, which suggests something methodical, comprehensive, profound, thorough; and that the contents of the volume are, for the most part, if not entirely, reprinted from magazines or journals or based upon articles which have appeared in such publications. And why should all this be mentioned? Is it for the purpose of bringing the work into some sort of contempt, of disparaging the author and his labours? Quite the contrary:

it is for the purpose of reassuring and encouraging that very large class of readers who, having but small leisure at their disposal and delighting to toy with literature, might be scared by a title which would possibly conjure up visions of interminable pages bristling with dry dissertation, ingenious speculation, tedious erudition, acrimonious criticism. For them the book is eminently adapted; each essay is short enough to suit their convenience, full enough of anecdote to sustain their interest, sound enough in judgment to keep them stable, keen enough in criticism to put them on the alert, delicate enough in taste to assist in their refinement, furnished with enough of illustrative quotations or of suggestive remarks to afford them the pleasures of memory or to direct them to some hitherto untried source of intellectual delight. The persons with whose characters as well as works the author deals are Alexander Pope, Daniel Defoe, Matthew Prior, Sir Richard Steele, the Wartons, John Wesley, Robert Southey; and he discourses, in three separate "studies," about English lyrical poetry, English rural poetry, and the English sonnet. The last of these three subjects he may be considered to have made specially his own by his "English Sonnets, Collected and Arranged," and to write upon it, therefore, with no common authority. It will be observed that there is a savour of antiquity about the subjects chosen, whether persons or branches of literature; but there are some subjects which, old as they may be, never grow stale. The bearing of this observation, to borrow the words of a famous skipper, lies in the application of it; and to apply it to the book under consideration would be no great stretching of a point. Indeed, sometimes, especially in the case of Daniel Defoe, the author has introduced quite a noticeable amount of novelty into his treatment. His book will have served a good purpose if only, in conjunction with others which have lately awakened reminiscences of the once supreme Pope, it should revive the study of one who, regarded as a wit and a poet, was hardly too highly eulogised by Lord Byron, although, from the social point of view, "a gentleman convicted at the present day," to adopt the conclusions of Mr. Leslie Stephen in his "Hours in a Library," "of practices comparable to those in which Pope indulged so freely, might find it expedient to take his name off the books of any respectable club."

A considerable flourish of trumpets, appropriate enough in the case of so ambitious a work, is performed in the introduction to the first volume of a *History of French Literature* by Henri Van Laun (Smith, Elder, and Co.), an author who has won good opinions both by his translation, lately completed, of Molière, and, if memory may be trusted, by other literary performances. What the history of a literature ought to be, the necessity of studying the literature of a country, what the literature of a country is, the influence of literature upon history, the influences which produce a writer, the action of political influences upon literature, the importance of religious influences in their effects upon literature, the influence of philosophy upon literature, the influence of the literary man upon his times, why the author was induced to undertake the task to which he has devoted himself, remarks upon the features of French literature at various periods from its commencement, the origin of the French nation, reasons for studying French literature, and what are the relations between a man and his book—such are the topics which are dwelt upon in the introduction at some length, with no little earnestness, in excellent style, with a largeness of view provocative of unbounded expectations. It is, therefore, not without a feeling of disappointment that one discovers with what meagreness of treatment writers, worthy of a better fate, are dismissed. But there is a liberal amount of space, filled with more or less interesting matter, whether appertaining to literary or other history, to be travelled over before we find ourselves in the midst of those writers. The volume is divided into three "books," of which the first carries us back to the very origin of the French nation; the second deals with the aspects presented when society was in the feudal state; and the third has to do with the very interesting period of the renaissance. There is a description of the typical Gaul, whose élan or dash is the characteristic which has remained most indelibly implanted, perhaps, in the modern Frenchman, though the physical attributes of the Gallic ancestor are not by any means to seek. The traces left by the Iberian nationality are also pointed out; and a fragment of an Iberian poem is offered for examination. The influence exercised by Greece and Rome and Germany, respectively, upon Gaul is duly discussed; and how the predominance was ultimately acquired by the Frank is briefly but plainly indicated. The connection between Greece and Gaul naturally and necessarily leads to frequent mention of Marseilles, which, quite justifiably though a little aggressively, the author, when writing of it under its ancient designation, prefers to call Massalia, rejecting the Massilia of the ordinary Romanising reader of history. When we arrive at the date of feudal society we find ourselves, of course, taken once more over the old ground of linguistic changes, until we reach the distinct division of the French tongue into the language of *œ* and the language of *oil*. We then pass on, naturally, to the troubadours, the jongleurs, the trouvères, the songs of love and of warlike prowess, as well as to the prose of Villehardouin, Joinville, Froissart, Commines, and many another. It is here that one begins to be struck with the meagreness of the author's performance, regarded as a history of literature. It may be that love of the subject makes one exacting; but it certainly does occur to one that, whether as regards the personality of the writers or specimens of their writings, they are dismissed with a very scanty notice. And one seems to be haunted by a recollection of recently published books, whether bearing the name of Besant or of another, which might have been freely drawn upon to very great advantage. And when it is said that the books were recently published, it is, of course, supposed that they were not published so very recently as to have been inaccessible at the time when they would have been wanted. The meagreness is still more noticeable when we reach the period of the renaissance. Not only does the list of persons whose names might have figured in a comprehensive history of French literature appear to be a very short and defective one, but a very poor idea is to be gained of what they wrote and how they wrote and in what respects they left their mark upon the literature of their country. Not a specimen is given, unless it may have escaped notice, of the style in which Marguerite, "the pearl of pearls," was wont to wield her pen; her favourite, Desperriers, is dismissed in a few lines; Clément Marot in a page or two; Rabelais in about fifteen pages; Montaigne in as few, or fewer. Why, to speak from memory, there is a fuller account of these literary personages, and of others, to be found in M. Guizot's "History of France," wherein, as a matter of necessity, such work was merely episodical. At the same time, although it may be impossible to accept this "History of French Literature" as a complete fulfilment of the promise conveyed in the title, it may be considered as that half-loaf which is better than no bread, and as an excellent preparation and incentive, calculated to pave the way and whet the appetite of such persons as meditate a study of the literary phases of French history.

We are much impressed with the great labour which has been bestowed on a work entitled *A Treatise on the Construction of Wills*, by H. S. Theobald, barrister-at-law (recently published by Stevens and Sons). The table of cases quoted, arranged in two columns, alone fills sixty-six pages; and the careful collecting and collating of these, scattered, as they are, over the numerous reports, is no small testimonial to Mr. Theobald's patience and industry. The scheme of this book does not involve the statement of cases at length, or an elaboration of argument to prove any particular point; it is really a digest of something like four thousand cases classified under such heads as "Shifting Clauses," "Gifts by Reference," "Executor Trusts," &c.; the rule of construction is pithily stated, and then the authority for the statement is given. "Satisfaction and Ademption" is the title of one of the chapters. Probably few testators have given the subject a thought; and yet wills or acts done in ignorance of it may have the effect of substantially altering the intended distribution of their property. "When a parent or a person in *locum parentis* has covenanted to pay a portion to a child, and afterwards gives a legacy to that child, the legacy, *prima facie*, is, *pro tanto*, a satisfaction of the portion. On the other hand, when there is a gift by will to a child, and the testator afterwards in his lifetime gives the child a sum of money, the bequest is deemed *pro tanto*," although the testator may have intended the child to have both; but this rule does not apply in the case of gifts by strangers. "What are charitable gifts" is treated of in another chapter; and we learn that "gifts for the advancement of education and learning, for the glory of God in the spiritual welfare of his creatures, for the advancement of Great Britain, to any religious institution or purposes, not contrary to morality or the law, are charitable." What may not be given for charitable purposes and what bequests of this nature are void, are also treated of. A chapter on the meaning of words seems hardly necessary in a law book, but many a good legal battle has taken place over the question whether "and" meant "and," or whether it meant something else. We should have thought "money" was one of the few words about which there could be no doubt as to its meaning; but there are hosts of reported cases in which judicial decisions have had to be given as to what it meant, and as to what passed to the legatee under that word. Some cases would appear only to show out of what flimsy materials doubts are said to arise, and litigation carried on, encouraged to some extent by the practice of the Courts to allow costs in most cases of construction out of the property; but in many cases if it were not for the interference of a court of equity some absurd provision in a will would prevent a legatee receiving his legacy, for it has been decided "as regards personality, a gift made upon a condition precedent involving a physical impossibility, such as to drink up the ocean, takes effect notwithstanding the condition." It is said that people who indulge in the reading of medical works are apt to imagine that they are afflicted with this or that disease. Similarly, any non-legal person reading this book with the view of informing himself how to word his own will, would very soon abandon in despair the idea of making it himself on finding the difficulties and doubts which seem to surround every form of expression he would be likely to use. But it is a book which every lawyer will appreciate, as it will enable him to find in a few minutes what construction has been placed upon, we may almost say, every disputed point in a will that as yet arisen. It presupposes a large acquaintance with the law and a familiar knowledge of all the technical expressions. If some of the testators—poor simple-minded people, who thought they were making very plain wills—could only be present in court to hear the learned counsel discuss what they meant and what they did not mean by the particular language of their wills, and how it must be supposed they knew the construction put on a bequest given in a particular manner, and the many presumptions of law this way and that way, they would be surprised to find what big words and long arguments it takes to explain them. There is a short chapter on "Suggestions for preparing wills," and we especially recommend two of them to the notice of intending testators; one is that "residuary gifts should be expressed in the most general terms, and enumeration of particular things should be avoided;" and the other is that "to impose any but the simplest conditions upon legatees is, as a rule, an invitation to litigation." Technical words should not be used unless the testator understands the whole of their meaning, for, as the author states in his preface, "the rule is not simply that technical words must have their legal effect, but that technical words must have their effect notwithstanding the strongest and clearest expression of intention on the part of the testator short of an express interpretation clause, that the words were not used technically." We cannot offer better suggestions to a testator than that he should study simplicity of disposition and directness of language in his testamentary arrangements. This is not a Christmas book, but the details of some of the cases here disposed of in a few words would furnish more curious and more startling tales than all the season's annuals. The rules as to the construction of wills may be a very interesting study to practitioners and onlookers, but it is a very serious thing to the parties concerned, and the result, while it brings joy and gladness to the one side, carries disappointment and sickness of heart to the other.

BURKE'S PEERAGE AND BARONETAGE, 1877.

The fact that this is the thirty-ninth edition of "Burke's Peerage and Baronetage" sufficiently attests the estimation in which this book is held. Keeping pace with the varying requirements that each year calls for, Sir Bernard adds now and then new features to the work. This year, for the first time, biographies of Privy Councillors and Knights are given, and the "Key to Names and Titles" has been revised and perfected. But, irrespective of these improvements, the twelve months that have just passed have effected so many changes in Peerage records that the present edition is exceptionally interesting. During the year "a title identified with the Empire of India has been added to the Royal dignities; thirteen peerages, one of great political importance, and twelve baronetcies have been created; two law lords have been made Barons for life, and thus to some extent, the principle of life-peers has been admitted; the Crown has virtually renounced the prerogative of creating any more peerages of Ireland; and a memorable decision of the Lords' Committee for Privileges in the Buckhurst case has regulated the limitation of peerage patents. Death, too, has effected numerous changes; some five-and-twenty peers and some five-and-thirty Baronets have passed away; and three peerages, Aldborough, Fitzwalter, and Lisgar, have become extinct."

In his new preface the author gives a rapid view of the recent Peerage creations, showing how the Duke of Richmond has regained one of the most popular titles in Scotland, and now holds a dukedom in four countries; how the male heir of the illustrious House of Nevill, a house unrivalled in achievement and brilliancy, has been promoted to the marquisate of Abergavenny; how the earldom of Beaconsfield takes name from and gives distinction to a little town in Buckinghamshire, once the cherished home of Edmund

Burke, and the locality from which that great statesman was to have taken the designation of his contemplated peerage; how the Lords Gerard and Tollemache adhere with ancestral pride to their old family names in their new Peerage titles, and how Mr. Mortimer West has had compensation in the peerage of Sackville for the deprivation of the barony of Buckhurst. Sir Bernard then dwells on the curious order of peers which was inaugurated during the past year, in the creations of the Lords of Appeal in Ordinary as barons for life, and confesses himself somewhat perplexed as to the exact position and extent of privileges of the Lords Blackburn and Gordon. He thinks that these life lords and their wives will have the rank and title accorded to the status of a baron, but that their children will have no right to the precedence and courtesy title of "Honourable." However this may be, certain it is that the wedge is introduced, and that the principle of life peerages, denounced by the House of Lords a few years since in the case of Wensleydale, is now partially admitted. It is a pity that it was not allowed long since. How much better it would be that landless lawyers held the peerage dignity for life only!

The peers of most mark who passed away since December, 1875, were Earl Stanhope, the historian, the Marquis Conyngham, K.P., the Earl of Leven and Melville, K.T., Field Marshal the Marquis of Tweeddale, K.T., Viscount Gormanston, the premier Viscount of Ireland, and Lord Lisgar, at one time Chief Secretary for Ireland, and lately Governor of the Dominion of Canada.

Among Baronets who died were Sir Anthony Rothschild, Sir Baldwin Walker, Sir John Maryon Wilson, Sir James Weir Hogg, Sir John Henry Scourfield (a few months after his creation), the Right Hon. Sir Frederick Shaw, Sir Home Gordon, Sir Francis Shuckburgh, and Sir Frederick Steele. It is difficult to determine whether or not the baronetcy held by the last named has become extinct. Nearly half a century ago Sir Frederick Steele's two sons went to the West Indies, but have not been heard of for more than twenty years.

The "Peerage and Baronetage" is full of strange incidents to those who examine it carefully.

TENNYSON'S NEW DRAMA.*

Encouraged by the approbation bestowed on his former drama of "Queen Mary," the Poet Laureate has been stimulated to compose a new work of the same kind on the subject of King Harold and the Battle of Hastings. Mr. Tennyson has availed himself of hints from Freeman's "History of the Norman Conquest" and the late Lord Lytton's romance of "Harold," together with what might be learned from the Bayeux tapestry and the Roman de Rou. The conception of the characters is due to the dramatist himself, who has invested his ideas with a poetic embodiment and some psychologic dialogue which will please the readers of the Laureate's new book. In the closet justice will be done to both these elements. There is little reason to hope that on the stage it would secure a triumph. The utter want of stage construction is, we fear, against it. Mr. Tennyson evidently finds it difficult to realise the position of the audience at a theatre, and to make allowances for certain material exigencies that will interfere with the writer's development. Of dramatic construction he appears to be studiously ignorant, and of the proper division of his subject he is utterly careless, beginning his second act with what ought to have terminated his first, and indeed throughout nearly misplacing every incident. To adjust the final act to stage purposes would be almost impossible. Throughout there is a want of condensation in the action. Nevertheless, the true dramatic spirit is shown in many of the scenes, while in scarcely one, we regret to report, is the dramatic form supplied which alone, we think, would make its representation stage-eligible. We suspect that Mr. Tennyson seldom visits the theatre. Unless a writer becomes familiar with the conditions of stage-action he cannot so prepare his drama as to answer for the effect of a single situation. The genius of the poet is manifest in nearly every line; but there are many lines which could never be pronounced in public. As a closet drama, however, it will be found greatly interesting; and, as a narrative whole, a work in dialogue of singular excellence.

MUSICAL PUBLICATIONS.

That prolific and successful composer of songs, Franz Abt, continues to contribute to drawing-room music of this class. "At Evening Time" will be widely acceptable on account of its effective although simple melody, and the absence of all difficulty in the accompaniment. It is a very pleasing song, within the reach of the most moderate executive powers. Messrs. R. Cocks and Co. are the publishers, as also of "My ladie far away," a characteristic song by Miss M. Lindsay (Mrs. J. W. Bliss); "Love never dies," a song by Mr. A. S. Gatty, in which are some effective rhythmical changes; and "Chimes at Sea," by H. P. Danks, who has supplied a pretty melody in waltz time. These are, like the first-named piece, devoid of difficulty.

Messrs. Cocks and Co. have also issued "Helvetia," a fantasia for the pianoforte (by J. Pridham), on Swiss airs, which are pleasingly and easily arranged, the fingering of the leading passages being indicated. "Hispania," by the same, is a piece of similar character, founded on Spanish airs. Somewhat more elaborate, although not of great difficulty, is "Mélodie Bohémienne variée pour le piano par F. Lemoine," a brilliant and effective piece, also published by Messrs. Cocks.

"A Puff of Smoke" is the title of a "musical dialogue," written by Mr. C. J. Rowe, and composed by the lady who is known, musically, under the pseudonym of "Angelina." The piece contains some bright and pleasant music, is of moderate length, and (as the title implies) includes only two dramatic personae—and is therefore well suited for drawing-room performance. Messrs. Chappell and Co. are the publishers.

Messrs. J. B. Cramer and Co. have recently published some pleasing songs, among which are "The Vision at Sea," an effective piece in the descriptive and declamatory style, by Mr. J. L. Roeckel; "Beloved again" (a sequel to Mr. Sullivan's popular "Once again") and "Saved from the Storm," two well-written songs by Odoardo Barri; "Long ago! Long ago!" a graceful and expressive ballad by G. F. Hatton (a son, we believe, of the well-known composer, Mr. J. L. Hatton); and "Dove of the Ark" and "A rose in a garden," the first a song of serious character, the other in a lighter style, both by Gaston Serpette.

Messrs. Boosey and Co. have recently added to their "Royal Edition of Operas" Cherubini's "Water-Carrier" and Wagner's "Flying Dutchman." The first-named work (originally produced at Paris, in 1800, as "Les Deux Journées"), was brought out in Italian, as "Le Due Giornate," at Her Majesty's Opera, in 1872; and has been made still more widely known by the English version produced by the Carl Rosa Company, at the Princess's Theatre, last year, and repeated during the season lately terminated at the Lyceum Theatre. Wagner's "Der Fliegende Holländer," his second important

opera, was also first heard in England at Her Majesty's Opera, where it was given as "L'Olandese Dannato" in 1870. This also was rendered far more familiar to the London public by the Carl Rosa Company at the Lyceum Theatre, where an English version was brought out in October last (as recorded by us at the time), and proved a great and continuous success. The editions of these fine works just published by Messrs. Boosey should find wide circulation on account of the intrinsic merits of the operas, the excellence of their presentation in handy octavo form, and the cheapness of the price. "The Water-Carrier" is given with the original French text, a German and an English version—the latter supplied by Mr. Arthur Baildon. "The Flying Dutchman" is also given with the original text (German), and the English adaptation written by Mr. J. P. Jackson for the Lyceum Theatre. Both volumes are edited by Mr. J. Pittman, who has the double qualification of special musical knowledge and theatrical (operatic) experience.

Under the title of "Cabinet Operas" Messrs. Boosey have issued, at very low prices, a large number of works, arranged for pianoforte solo. Through these editions the player is enabled, alone, to realise the prominent effects of the entire score. Wagner's "Der Fliegende Holländer" has just been added to the series.

Another valuable issue by Messrs. Boosey is their "Royal Edition of the Songs of Beethoven," in a handsome octavo volume. We have here a collection of upwards of seventy exquisite "lieder" by the great composer, including the two songs from his incidental music to Goethe's "Egmont." The original German words are given, and an English version from the skilled hand of Mr. John Oxenford. All these volumes are admirably adapted for Christmas and New-Year's gifts.

"A Collection of Organ Pieces by Charles Joseph Frost" (Novello, Ewer, and Co.), is an important series of movements for the "king of instruments," in various forms and styles, written in the orthodox three staves—that is, with an independent pedal part. There are upwards of twenty pieces, including preludes and fugues, postludes, offertories, fantasias, a march, a trio, an elaborate sonata in four movements, and other forms, closing with a prelude and a skilfully-wrought fugue. The volume is well worthy the attention of all who cultivate organ-playing, being equally valuable for practice and study or for use in Divine service.

Another work of similar character to that above noticed (issued by the same publishers) is "The Organist's Quarterly Journal," portions of which have been from time to time noticed by us. We have now before us the last number that has appeared, part 32, which consists (according to the plan of the work) entirely of original compositions. These are a graceful minuet by Mr. Henry Smart, an effective fantasie by Mr. W. S. Hoyte, a melodious andante sostenuto by Mr. J. Wrigley, and a characteristic minuetto by Mr. J. B. Calkin. The work—under the editorship of Dr. Spark, of Leeds, who occasionally contributes to it—fully maintains its interest.

MUSIC.

There is not much to say at present under the above heading, except what is prospective. We have already recorded the close for the year of the Crystal Palace Saturday Afternoon Concerts, and the Monday and Saturday Popular Concerts.

As already stated, "The Messiah" was given last week by the Royal Albert Hall Choral Society, conducted by Mr. Barnby, on Monday and Thursday evenings; the same oratorio having been performed at the Crystal Palace on the Tuesday evening, and by the Sacred Harmonic Society on the following Friday evening—this latter occasion having been its forty-fifth annual Christmas performance by that institution. The choruses were very impressively rendered, especially the well-known movements, "For unto us a child is born" and "Hallelujah;" and the solos were effectively sung by Madame Nouver, Miss Enriquez, Mr. E. Lloyd, and Mr. G. Fox; Mr. T. Harper's trumpet obbligato having been a valuable incidental feature. Sir Michael Costa conducted, as usual; and Mr. Willing occupied his usual place at the organ.

The St. Paul's School Choral Society gave their annual concert on Thursday week. The school-room was filled with an audience among whom were many distinguished old Paulines. The masters and pupils also mustered strongly, and the Rev. Dr. Kynaston, Head Master, was present in his capacity of president of the society. The programme included part-songs, madrigals, and choruses, rendered by Messrs. W. Hepworth, R. H. Boys, H. A. Williams, and G. B. Long; and the concert concluded with the singing of "Vivat Regina," the Latin version of which was written by the Rev. Dr. Kynaston.

The latest performance of 1876 was the Bank Holiday concert at the Royal Albert Hall, on Tuesday, when a varied programme, vocal and instrumental, was provided.

The earliest performance of the coming year will be that of "The Messiah" at the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday next, under the direction of Mr. William Carter.

On the following Saturday the London Ballad Concerts, directed by Mr. John Boosey, will enter on their eleventh season, at St. James's Hall; where the tenth series of the Monday Popular Concerts will be resumed on the evening of Jan. 8, the Saturday afternoon performances recommencing in the same week.

The twenty-first season of the Saturday afternoon concerts at the Crystal Palace will be resumed—with the thirteenth performance of the series—on Feb. 3, when the programme will consist of a selection from the works of Mendelssohn, in commemoration of the birthday of the composer.

At the Christmas general meeting of the Royal Society of Musicians, Mr. W. H. Cummings, the eminent vocalist, was elected to the office of honorary treasurer of the society, vacated by the recent death of Mr. G. F. Anderson.

Mr. M. A. Smythson has been presented with an épergne and a purse of money, by members and friends of the Sacred Harmonic Society, in kindly remembrance of his lengthened and useful services.

The Leeds Triennial Musical Festival of 1877 is fixed to take place, in the Leeds Townhall, about the end of September, and it is expected that two or three new and important works will be produced on the occasion. As an indication of the probable pecuniary success of the festival, it may be stated that in the space of a few weeks a guarantee fund of over £8000 was subscribed by a limited number of gentlemen. The fund is now to be thrown open to the general public for subscription, when a large addition to it is expected to be made. Although the programme has not yet been definitely settled, it is known that Professor Macfarren is engaged on an oratorio for the festival, the subject being "Joseph." The Professor's promise to write for the committee was made shortly after the festival in 1874, when his "St. John the Baptist" was performed, and proved a great success. It is a curious coincidence that Sir Michael Costa, the Leeds Festival conductor in 1871, is reported to be engaged on an oratorio also having "Joseph" for its subject.

A SPITALFIELDS CHARITY.

Among the local charities in various quarters of London which appeal to benevolent givers of comfort for the poor at this season of the year, a few words may here be said for the "Sisters of Charity," in Hope-street, Brick-lane, Spitalfields. Their unobtrusive labours, not being conducted under the special patronage of the parochial clergy, though approved, as we understand, by the esteemed Rector of Bethnal-green, are less likely to command the ordinary means of inviting public support. This agency for the relief of distress, in a very needy district, is one of several useful branches of the St. Saviour's Home of the "Devonport Sisters of Charity," in Osnaburgh-street, Regent's Park. The Devonport Sisterhood, founded by the late Miss Sellon about thirty years ago, has started and maintained different works of practical beneficence, not only in the neighbourhood of Plymouth, where it was first set on foot, but in and around the metropolis, at Manchester, and also at Oxford, where there is an establishment for the industrial training of girls and women, some of whom are printers. An important part of the work near London is the Immanuel Hospital, at Ascot Priory, for convalescent and incurable patients. The institution at Osnaburgh-street is mainly an orphanage for the care of young girls, who are there well provided for and carefully instructed, while the Sisters have likewise an orphanage for boys at Manchester. In the East of London, which is the abode of so much hopeless poverty, with such a comparatively small proportion of the richer and middle classes, the Sisters undertake a share of house visiting, wherever they can offer needed consolation, and they carry on a dispensary for the sick poor, and a soup-kitchen affording wholesome and nourishing food to large numbers of people sadly in want of it. This branch of the Sisterhood, under charge of a lady who is only known as "Sister Emily Ruth," more particularly claims our present notice. It has recently lost the pecuniary aid of one of its most liberal supporters. The experience of nearly twenty years has proved how large an amount of real good it is capable of doing, and we trust it will not be left to decline. When it was situated in Thomas-street, in more than one great emergency of epidemic disease—the cholera, upon one occasion, and the outbreak of smallpox about seven years ago—most valuable service was rendered by this modest institution. There were beds for the reception of patients, and nurses were also sent to the houses where people lay ill. The physicians and surgeons of Guy's Hospital can bear testimony to the assistance rendered by Miss Nichol and other members of this Sisterhood in occasional nursing. With regard to the soup-kitchen and the provision of food for the destitute, it is partly supplied with materials by scraps collected from the comfortable households of Bishopsgate shopkeepers and other neighbours, who have something to spare off their daily dinner-tables; but Australian preserved meat is also used for the soup. Whole families come and sit together in the dining-room, one day in the week, to the number of about a hundred. A better dinner—of mutton or beef, with vegetables—is given once or twice a week to some twenty or thirty invalids or sickly persons. In visiting cases of sickness abroad, the Sisters often give food, beef-tea, groceries, and blankets, according to the need. Their ministrations are perfectly free and unconditional, without any distinction between people belonging to one religious denomination and another. Although, as is very well known, the Sisterhood owes its commencement to the High Church movement, its operations in Spitalfields have no proselytising object; it is, indeed, not at all connected with any church or chapel in that district.

An impartial observer who should accompany one of these kind ladies, easily recognised by their peculiar nun-like dress, in her quiet errand of Christian service through the dismal lanes of Spitalfields and Bethnal-green, would soon be convinced that theirs is a genuine mission of humanity. He would, after scrambling up a dark staircase, find her cheerfully talking with a poor consumptive handloom-weaver, and his sad-faced wife and three children, in their comfortless room. This unhappy man is showing her the silk on his loom, to be woven for an umbrella-maker; the vile warp-thread so loaded with thick dye and gummy stuff, to make it heavier for sale, that it is constantly breaking in his frame. He cannot weave it fast—he can do only three yards in a day, and the payment is sixpence a yard. It is not enough to keep them all living, even if he could always get work. He wishes his father had brought him up to a better trade. This is the doleful burden of Bethnal-green, the sad old story of Spitalfields, which we have so often heard before. The Sister of Charity does not here preach either the doctrines of political economy or those of ascetic theology, but her words and looks are full of heartfelt sympathy, and she invites this poor family to share the Hope-street deeds of bounty. The next visit she makes, half a mile distant, is to an amiable old man of eighty-two, the father of six sons and five daughters, all married and with children of their own. He, too, was a handloom weaver till last year, when his eyesight failed; and he dreads the prospect of going into the workhouse. The Sister passes on, to call upon a bricklayer's labourer just come out of the hospital; and to sit down in a smoke-blackened den, as dark as a cavern, with three raw Irishmen, whose native courtesy is not the less sincere for the strangeness of their brogue. The misery of all these poor folk is scarcely commented upon in their interchange of pleasant greetings with "the Sister," as every one simply calls her, but she bears it always in mind, though she can do very little for its permanent effectual relief. Dismal and dirty are the places where they somehow live; they have much to suffer, let alone the frequency of disease and occasional starvation. In this world they can have little hope of ease or bodily welfare. But it is some consolation to be visited by a "Sister" who treats the humblest men and women as brothers and sisters of her own. We may venture now at Christmas to commend this example, and to invite a little seasonal help. It is equally deserved by other charitable agencies in that depressed and half-ruined part of our great city. The London Domestic Mission (Unitarian), at its schools in Spicer-street and by its constant visitations through Mr. C. L. Corkran, does a great deal of good to the poor. The London Dispensary, in Church-street, relieves three thousand patients in a year. The Sewing Schools of Lady Burdett-Coutts, in Brown's-lane, has connected with them a variety of arrangements for giving work to the unemployed, and for nourishing or curing those afflicted with infirmity of health. There is a Bethnal-green branch of the Charity Organisation Society. But the whole district lies under a fatal blight of its industrial condition.

The life-boat purchased by the Liverpool and Derby Plimsoll Organisation was launched on Thursday week at Lowestoft, and christened "The Samuel Plimsoll."

A memorial mural tablet, erected to the memory of the late Dr. Thomas E. Beatty, who was formerly president of the Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons, erected by his professional brethren in St. Patrick's Cathedral, was yesterday week unveiled and consigned to the care of the cathedral authorities by the Lord Mayor.



THE POWDER TOWER.
THE KARL'S BRIDGE.

THE HRADCHIN.

THE TEYNKIRCHE.
THE JEWS' OLD BURIAL-GROUND.

SKETCHES IN PRAGUE.





NEW-YEAR'S EVE IN EDINBURGH.

SKETCHES IN PRAGUE.

In size and beauty Prague is the third city in Germany, and produces a most striking effect, when viewed at a distance, by its commanding situation, the lofty steeples of its numerous churches, and the fine palaces and public buildings. It lies on both banks of the Moldau, in a narrow valley shut in by eminences, on the sides of which a great part of the city is built. In the "American Guide to Europe," a compact and carefully compiled volume, published by J. B. Lippincott and Co., Prague is thus described:—"It may be divided into three parts. The old town is the largest, and contains the best shops, with the Jewish quarter; the new town has the best streets; while the Hradschin, a detached quarter (shown in our Engraving), has the finest views, being built on a precipitous hill at some distance from the river. It contains a number of houses belonging to the nobility and country gentry; also the cathedral and Archbishop's palace. In a low-lying tract to the north, and east of the Hradschin, is the quarter called Kleinseite, or Little Prague, said to be the oldest part of the town; and at the riverside is the only suburb, called Smichow. Prague, long the capital of Bohemia, contains the ruins of what was once the residence of the Sovereign. It has also another building, less ancient, called a palace, now used as a barrack. It contains 150 rooms, with a hall as large as Westminster. The cathedral is a fine old Gothic structure, containing the tomb of St. John of

Nepomuk, with a silver shrine weighing 37 cwt., and other shrines of Bohemian monarchs. The Theinkirche contains the tomb of Tycho Brahe; and the Church of St. Gallus is where Huss preached. The theatre is large, and there are many other public buildings and institutions. The University is the oldest in Germany, having been founded by Charles IV., in 1348."

BRINGING IN THE NEW YEAR IN SCOTLAND.

New-Year's Day takes the place of Christmas Day in Scotland. To understand how it so happens that this is the case, it is necessary to go as far back as the Reformation. That ecclesiastical revolution was carried to a more extreme result in Scotland than in the South. The episcopacy was abolished, and altars, with relics, &c., were swept away. Churches in Scotland then ceased to be consecrated, marriage ceased to be a church ceremony, and has ever since that time been performed in private houses. A church, not being consecrated and having no altar, is not more sacred than any other building; and, as marriage at that time became merely a civil contract among Presbyterians, it only required to be witnessed, like any other bargain; hence, although a clergyman is, according to custom, always present at such ceremonies, still he is not necessary; and the blacksmith at Gretna-green had no privilege—anyone else could have performed the part of

witness to the transaction. All saints' days were abolished at the same time; and this, of course, included Christmas Day; and hence New-Year's Day took its place, and has remained so ever since. The last day of the year is called "Hogmanay," and it is not common for people to go to bed that night; they sit up to "see the new year in." As soon as twelve o'clock strikes everyone shakes hands with those around, wishing in each case "A happy new year, and many o' them." Each one drinks some whisky and eats some bun, a kind of plum-cake made for the new year, again repeating the same words to all that are present. They then go into the houses of near neighbours, to "first-foot," as it is called, when all this is again performed. The younger and more active go off to visit friends, carrying a bottle and some bun. In some cases, often by young men who have sweethearts, they go to the door before twelve, and wait till the hour strikes, so that they may be certain to be the "first-foot" to that particular person. Visiting the houses of friends continues all the next day, when the wishing of each other "a happy new year" and tasting the bottle go on. For about a week after, if any friend calls, the remark is made that "it is still the new year, and there is a drap in the bottle, so you maun taste."

The Illustration represents the Canongate, Edinburgh, with a crowd just beginning what has been described, and the clock-dial shows that twelve has struck and the New Year has begun.

HIDDEN LINKS.

The number of people who are perpetually in want of a new game may roughly be said almost to equal that of those who are not; in other words, about half the world is always on the look-out for some small variation on its old ingenious methods of hastening the flight of time. Of the said half-world one portion—and that not the most intellectual—seeks constantly to amuse itself and its friends by various games at cards, of which the immediate object is the winning of many dozen counters; another set goes in for pastimes for which apparatus—consisting generally of the very simplest toys made in the most expensive manner—is necessary, and which are useful, at least, in making bright the windows of toy-shops at Christmas time; while a third sharpens its wits in exercises entirely mental, and altogether prettier, brighter, and less commonplace than the diversions of the other two. To the last class belong those games which consist of elaborate cross-examinations, those which are of the nature of charades, and, indeed, all of which the object is to guess something, whether from the actions or the words of the person who tries to define and yet to conceal it.

Might not, then, the inventor of an entirely new and original pastime deserve well of a large section of his countrymen? Should he not be honoured by—we will not say a statue, or any monument more perennial than brass, but something substantial and agreeable, in the shape, perhaps, of a box at the opera for the coming season, or a free admission for life to St. James's Hall, whatever were going on there—Monday Populars, dances or dinners, National Conferences, or Christy Minstrels? Would, indeed, any reward be beyond his merit, if his game were not only absolutely new, but interesting, sometimes to the pitch of excitement, quite inexpensive, giving opportunity for all sorts of small talk and scandal, the cause now and then of most malicious discoveries, and capable of being continued, not only, according to the invariable formula of books of household games, "for any number of hours," but for days, weeks, or months, at the discretion of the players?

Such a game we have to introduce to the intellectual public—indeed, to that portion of the public also which, being hardly even provided with intelligence sufficient for such occupations as *loo* or *napoleon*, devotes its social evenings solely to the prying into the secrets of its friends, the destruction of its neighbours' characters. For the amateur private detective, no such sport has ever yet been invented; for the student of elementary sociology here are science and amusement hand in hand. The stupidest may play at it; yet some of its problems, though not really insoluble, may baffle the most ingenious. Its sweep is bolder, its scope more wide, than that of any recreation yet known: it combines the delights of the Inquisition with the harmlessness of the penny post; and it may be played anywhere—though Londoners are perhaps the best qualified for it—under any circumstances, for, as we have said, any length of time, and by any number of people, from one upwards. It might even be made a medium for betting; and the additional attraction that at the present moment it has, as far as we are aware, never been played by anybody.

It is founded on the well-known but ever-fresh fact, alluded to every day by dozens of people, of the smallness of the world. A distinguished living dramatist has said, we believe, that everyone is bound to everyone else by a chain of two links—that is, that he knows someone who is acquainted with each someone else. To put it mathematically: the world may be divided into two concentric circles—that is to say, two circles, one inside the other—of which the centre is (of course) oneself, while the inner circle consists of people one knows, and the outer of that important section of the universe definable as other people; and the theory we are speaking of maintains that, while I, the centre, am connected by personal acquaintance with every point (or every individual) of the inner circle, every point of the outer circle is similarly connected with one or more points of the inner, and, through him or them, with me. Practically, if I hear mentioned anybody—as Jones or Smith—or whom I never heard before, I may be quite sure that some one of my acquaintance—as Brown, Robinson, or Tomkins—knows this Jones or Smith, and thus links him to me.

Well, we should call our pastime *Hidden Links*; and its object would be, given the name of anyone we do not know, to find the link connecting him with us—"our mutual friend," as Dickens would have said. It is played thus:—Any number of people, at a country house (or elsewhere), sitting round a table (or otherwise), take a newspaper (or anything else), and, making a list of names, chosen from among the births, deaths, and marriages, or the police courts, or any other place, separately try—or endeavour in pairs—to discover the links connecting them with these strangers. The one who establishes most of these acquaintances in a given time (or who first establishes all, or a certain number of them) wins the game, and any stakes, bets, or other profits arising from it. The only other rule we would suggest is, that "the world" be taken only to mean England; as we feel morally certain that there are many worthy people in China, San Francisco, and elsewhere, who occasionally stray into the newspaper, and have never even seen any slight acquaintance of ours.

The gossip provoked by this sport may easily be conceived; but the petty mischiefs which may be done by it few people would credit—the delicious spiteful insinuations, the unwaried betrayal of undignified acquaintanceships it calls forth. How easily a jovial friend may draw down curtain cross-examinations on a husband by knowingly alluding to "that pretty Miss De Blathers—you knew her, Tom;" or a wife commit herself dreadfully by the gushing avowal that "of course she remembered Captain Merryweather!" Then, if one has eagerly claimed the Thompsons as one's connecting link with the latest little bankrupt, and somebody with an inconvenient memory asks whether we mean that old Thompson that kept a little shop near Islington Green—what suspicion will it not throw on our connection with the Duke of Brentwood, modestly asserted as through "little Fitzclarence Fitzmontgomery—only a younger son"?

Tender emotions of friends lost long ago will be called up by this pleasant pastime—Harrison, whom we had to drop because he would always borrow half-sovereigns and forget to pay, stands out now in a new lustre as the friend of Bradbury, whose marriage with Miss Northcote is in to-day's *Times*; the sudden recollection of poor Harry (as we used to call him) wins us the game, and so awakes our old liking for the man that, seeing him in the street some days afterwards, we actually cross to speak to him, and ask, in the heartiest way, whether he has seen old Bradbury lately. At this moment it occurs to us that Miss Northcote was originally engaged, for three years at least, to Harrison himself, and Bradbury was to have been "best man" at the wedding; and we cannot help feeling that even the noble game of "Hidden Links" has its drawbacks.

But its advantages entirely outwit them—to old maids, bachelors of an inquisitive turn of mind, stupid people generally, and, perhaps most of all, to young people just engaged or married, who wish to find out all about each other's acquaintances, friends, relations, and history—which *Hidden Links* will only too surely bring to light!

ASTRONOMICAL OCCURRENCES IN JANUARY, 1877.

(From the "Illustrated London Almanack.")

The Moon during the morning hours of the 9th and 10th is near Mars, being a little to the right of the planet on the former and to the left on the latter day. She is near Jupiter on the mornings of the 11th and 12th, being a little west on former and east on the latter day; near Venus on the morning of the 12th, near Mercury on the 16th, and near Saturn during the evening hours of the 17th. Her phases or times of change are:—

Last Quarter on the 6th at 17 minutes after 2h in the afternoon.
New Moon " 11th " 28 " 1h afternoon.
First Quarter " 22nd " 53 " 3h " afternoon.
Full Moon " 29th " 39 " 8h morning.

She is nearest the Earth on the morning of the 29th, and furthest from it on the morning of the 15th.

Mercury is an evening star till the 28th. He sets on the 1st at 5h. 11m. p.m., or 1h. 11m. after sunset; this interval increases to 1h. 29m. by the 6th, and to 1h. 44m. by the 11th, after which it decreases to 1h. 13m. by the 21st, and 21m. by the 26th, the planet setting on this day at 4h. 58m. p.m.; on the 28th the planet sets nearly at the same time as the Sun. From Jan. 29 to April 6 he sets in daylight. He rises on the 23rd at nearly the same time as the Sun, 20m. before him on the 26th, and on the last day 51m. before sunrise. He is at his greatest eastern elongation (18 deg. 57 min.) on the 11th, in his ascending node on the 13th, near the Moon on the 16th, stationary among the stars on the 17th, in perihelion on the 18th, and in inferior conjunction with the Sun on the 26th.

Venus is a morning star, rising on the 1st at 5h. 41m. a.m., or 2h. 27m. before sunrise; on the 11th at 6h. 6m. a.m., or 1h. 59m. before the Sun; on the 21st at 6h. 23m. a.m., or 1h. 33m. before sunrise; and on the last day at 6h. 34m. a.m., or 1h. 9m. before sunrise. She is near Jupiter on the 9th, near the Moon on the 12th, and in her descending node on the last day. She is due south on the 1st at 9h. 52m. a.m., and on the last day at 10h. 35m. a.m.

Mars is a morning star, rising on the 1st at 4h. 1m. a.m., on the 11th at 3h. 58m. a.m., on the 21st at 3h. 56m. a.m., and on the last day at 3h. 51m. a.m., or 3h. 52m. before sunrise. He is near the Moon on the 9th. He is due south on the 1st at 8h. 32m. a.m., on the 15th at 8h. 14m. a.m., and on the last day at 7h. 55m. a.m.

Jupiter is a morning star, rising on the 1st at 6h. 29m. a.m., or 1h. 39m. before sunrise; on the 11th at 6h. 0m. a.m., or 2h. 5m. before the Sun; on the 21st at 5h. 30m. a.m., or 2h. 26m. before the Sun; and on the last day at 5h. 1m. a.m., or 2h. 42m. before sunrise. He is near the Moon on the 11th and 12th. He is due south on the 1st at 10h. 28m. a.m., on the 15th at 9h. 46m. a.m., and on the last day at 8h. 57m. a.m.

Saturn is an evening star, and sets on the 1st at 8h. 45m. p.m., on the 11th at 8h. 11m. p.m., on the 21st at 7h. 38m. p.m., and on the last day of the month at 7h. 6m. p.m., or 2h. 21m. after sunset. He is near the Moon on the 18th. He is due south on the 1st at 3h. 41m. p.m., on the 15th at 2h. 51m. p.m., and on the last day at 1h. 55m. p.m.

There will be three Eclipses of the Sun and two of the Moon in the coming year, as follow:—A total eclipse of the Moon on Feb. 27, partial eclipses of the Sun on March 15 and Aug. 8, a total eclipse of the Moon Aug. 23, and a partial eclipse of the Sun Sept. 25. These will be described in the notices of the respective months in which they occur.

In eighteen years there are usually about seventy eclipses—twenty-nine of the Moon and forty-one of the Sun, or nearly two to three. Seven is the greatest number of eclipses that can occur in a year, and two the least. If there are seven, five must be of the Sun and two of the Moon. If only two, then both must be of the Sun, for in every year there are two solar eclipses.

A FERN PARADISE AT HOME.

* is not only the poor who have to live in gardenless dwellings and look out from sunless windows. The mansions of the rich and thousands of houses of the well-to-do and of the middle classes are necessarily, in this great London and in other cities and towns, placed where the sun cannot exert his charming life-giving influence. Many a window of a grand house looks out upon nothing but brick walls, which tower up high and blot out the sun's rays. The occupants of these houses are often bound by the exigencies of business to make their homes for weary months in these shadowy dwelling-places. Why, then, do they not bring the beautiful ferns into requisition? What exquisite grace would be shed over every room in a house if every available space were occupied by the feathered fronds of these beautiful plants!—on tables and side-boards, on mantelpieces and on window-sills; hanging from window-rod, on the landing of the stairs, in the hall, in the bed-rooms—everywhere, in fact. Why not? Without any curtailment of necessary space, without any inconvenience, these beautiful plants might be so arranged as that every house, "be it ever so humble," might become a "Fern Paradise." The hardier kinds, if kept within doors, will survive the winter, and look fresh and green throughout; and the more delicate and fragile of the species may be preserved in all their natural freshness under a covering of glass. Plant them in a case and cover them with a shade, and then you will have, even in midwinter, a miniature fernery. Do you want a sweet smell as from a country lane? Take off the covering of glass, and your tiny imprisoned favourites will exhale the sweet familiar odours; and where the moisture has rested on their feathered tips, there you will see as if it had been dewdrops. Have you a dark, damp corner in your garden, where you cannot get your flowers to grow? If you have—and few there are who have not, for everything has its shady side—throw some loose stones together in a rocky form, and plant ferns there. They will revel in the obscurity of the retreat which you have chosen for them, and smile gracefully and thankfully upon you from out of their dark corner.—*The Fern Paradise.* By Francis George Heath.

Dr. Cameron, M.P., lecturing before the Glasgow Andersonian University Medical Society, advocated a State primary examination for medical degrees. He condemned the Act passed last Session for regulating the practice of vivisection, and contended that there was far more cruelty inflicted on animals by wholesale batte shooting than by scientific inquiry, through which great good resulted to mankind.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Firth testimonial was recently held, when a recommendation from the committee of selection, appointed to confer with Mr. Mark Firth as to the form of testimonial, was presented. It was to the effect that Mr. Ouless should be employed to paint a portrait, to be placed in the Cutlers' Hall; and that Mr. Albert Bruce Joy be employed to execute a bust of Mr. Firth, to be placed in the new University Buildings. This report was universally approved. It is expected that, besides these works of art, a sum of £1500 will be available for scholarships.

THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT.

One of the few questions in domestic politics at the present day which engage the sympathies or rouse the antagonism of any large section of the population is that of Temperance Reform. Those who advocate the imposition of some legislative restrictions on the liquor traffic, after many years of neglect and obloquy, are beginning to reap the fruit of their labours in the hold which the movement is gaining upon the minds of thinking men of all shades of opinion. A glance at the names on the list of any leading temperance committee, such as that which supports Sir Wilfrid Lawson and the Permissive Bill, will show how widespread the conviction has become that some action in the matter is needed. Bishops, Roman Catholic prelates, members of Parliament, Dissenting ministers, Oxford professors, and Manchester manufacturers are to be found combined to promote the cause of the National Alliance.

It may be taken as an index of the feeling on the subject that the two leading periodicals of the month devote prominent places to articles on Temperance Reform, treated, as might be expected, from rather different points of view. The *Contemporary Review* for December has a paper by Mr. Francis Peck on "Intemperance; its Prevalence, Effects, and Remedy," which contains some statistics well worthy of consideration by all who care for the moral and social advancement of the lower classes; and in the *Fortnightly* there is an interesting contribution by Mr. Joseph Chamberlain on licensing in Sweden and the working of the "Gothenburg system." Both writers agree in considering drunkenness the cause of the largest proportion of the crime, misery, and pauperism which prevail, and both testify to the extraordinary results which have ensued in a community when the drink trade has been wholly or partially discontinued. Some of the figures quoted by Mr. Peck are enough to startle those who are most alive to the evils produced by intoxication.

It is easier to dilate on the extent and magnitude of the evils caused by this vice than to find a palliative for them. There can be no doubt that some more potent remedy than mere "moral suasion" is requisite. The diffusion of education, and the general elevation of the intellectual condition of the lower classes, may do something; and something also might be effected by the disuse of certain foolish customs of society, which Mr. Peck justly censures, such as the fashion in some trades of commencing all business by indiscriminate "treating," and the usage, too general in all ranks, of considering partial intoxication a token of peculiar festivity. But all temperance reformers are convinced that no real diminution of drunkenness can be expected unless some effectual steps are taken by the Legislature to restrict the sale of intoxicants.

Unfortunately, the doctors disagree as to the precise measures to be adopted. Sir Wilfrid Lawson's Permissive Bill has, perhaps, a larger number of supporters than any other single scheme; but the opposition to it is as strong as ever; nor does there appear to be the slightest chance of its being passed during the present generation. The fact is, it seems to be generally considered that the bill would be quite impracticable in the districts where it would be most needed, and many of the more moderate advocates of temperance dislike the arbitrary and repressive nature of the project; at the same time a converging mass of opposition is concentrated on it, which would, perhaps, not be displayed towards a measure proposing to attain the same ends by somewhat different means.

The "Gothenburg system," energetically supported by Mr. Chamberlain, is as revolutionary in character as the Permissive Bill; but it has the advantage of having been tried, with considerable success, in Sweden for the past ten years. Its principal feature, when fully developed, is that there should be no free trade in alcoholic liquors at all. In Gothenburg the entire traffic in ardent spirits is carried on by a company, which hands over the whole profits obtained to the municipality to be devoted to objects of public utility. The managers of the various liquor-shops make no profit on the spirits sold, and have therefore no motive to induce men to drink. All the company's establishments are eating-houses, and not mere bars, as most of the English public-houses are, and the superintendents nearly always receive a percentage on the money taken for food, tea, and coffee. Strict orders are given to the managers not to supply drink to any person who has already had "a drop too much" or is known as an habitual drunkard; and these orders, it appears, are not often disobeyed. No spirits whatever are allowed by the municipality to be sold in shops not belonging to this "Bolag," or company. The result is said to be most satisfactory. In the twelve years ending in 1874 the proportion of drunkenness to the population in Stockholm increased 5 per cent; while, in Gothenburg, where the new system was in operation most of the time, it decreased 50 per cent.

Mr. Chamberlain desires the experiment "to be tried on a large scale" in our own country. He lays down two conditions which he considers essential to its success—First, that Parliament should recognise the principle that the spirit trade ought to be a monopoly exercised for the benefit of the community; and, secondly, that it should determine the scale by which the existing vested interests should be bought out. As regards the first of these conditions, it may be doubted whether any House of Commons would dare to depart so widely from the course of political progress during the past forty years as to create a monopoly of any kind in a commodity of such universal consumption as alcoholic liquors; and, if it did, the question would arise as to what would be the result of making every municipality a trading corporation doing business in an extraordinarily profitable article. It may be feared that the laudable desire to clear off a heavy deficit, if not more questionable motives, might induce some town councils to carry on the trade with considerably less regard to the morals of the community, and a great deal more concern for the profits realised than would be at all desirable.

Perhaps the wisest course for the supporters of the Temperance movement would be for them to concentrate their efforts on some one measure of a less uncompromising character than either Sir Wilfrid Lawson's bill or the Gothenburg system—such, for instance, as Mr. Joseph Cowen's scheme for vesting the licensing power in a board elected by the rate-payers of the district. There is no doubt as to the evils which are directly or indirectly produced by drunkenness, and there can be little question that the time when the Legislature will be compelled to deal with the matter in some form or other is not far distant.

The new cattle market and slaughter-houses, erected at Carolina Port by the Dundee Commissioners of Police, at a cost of £445,000, were opened, on Tuesday, by Provost Robertson.

The caisson for the last pier of the Tay Bridge at Dundee was floated out, on Tuesday, and sunk in its position in the middle of the river. The bridge, it is expected, will be completed by next September.

Christmas Day in Glasgow was celebrated by a general suspension of business on the Exchanges, and a dinner supplied to 1800 poor persons in the City Hall, presided over by the Lord Provost.

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